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CAPT. ATOM
MEETS
THIRTEEN
SUPERSTITION AND MAGIC ARE RELICS OF THE PAST! THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD SCOFFS AT THE MENTION OF THEM! BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN FEATS OF LEGERDEMAIN FOIL THE POWERS OF CAPTAIN ATOM? OUT OF THE UNKNOWN SPRINGS THE FIGURE OF 13 AND HIS FELINE FAMILIAR, FAUSTUS TO BRING NEW ADVENTURE INTO THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN ATOM AS HE TRIES TO STOP..
Script by....Dave Kaler
Pencils by....Steve Ditko
Inks by .....Frank McLaughlin
Lettering by...Herb Field

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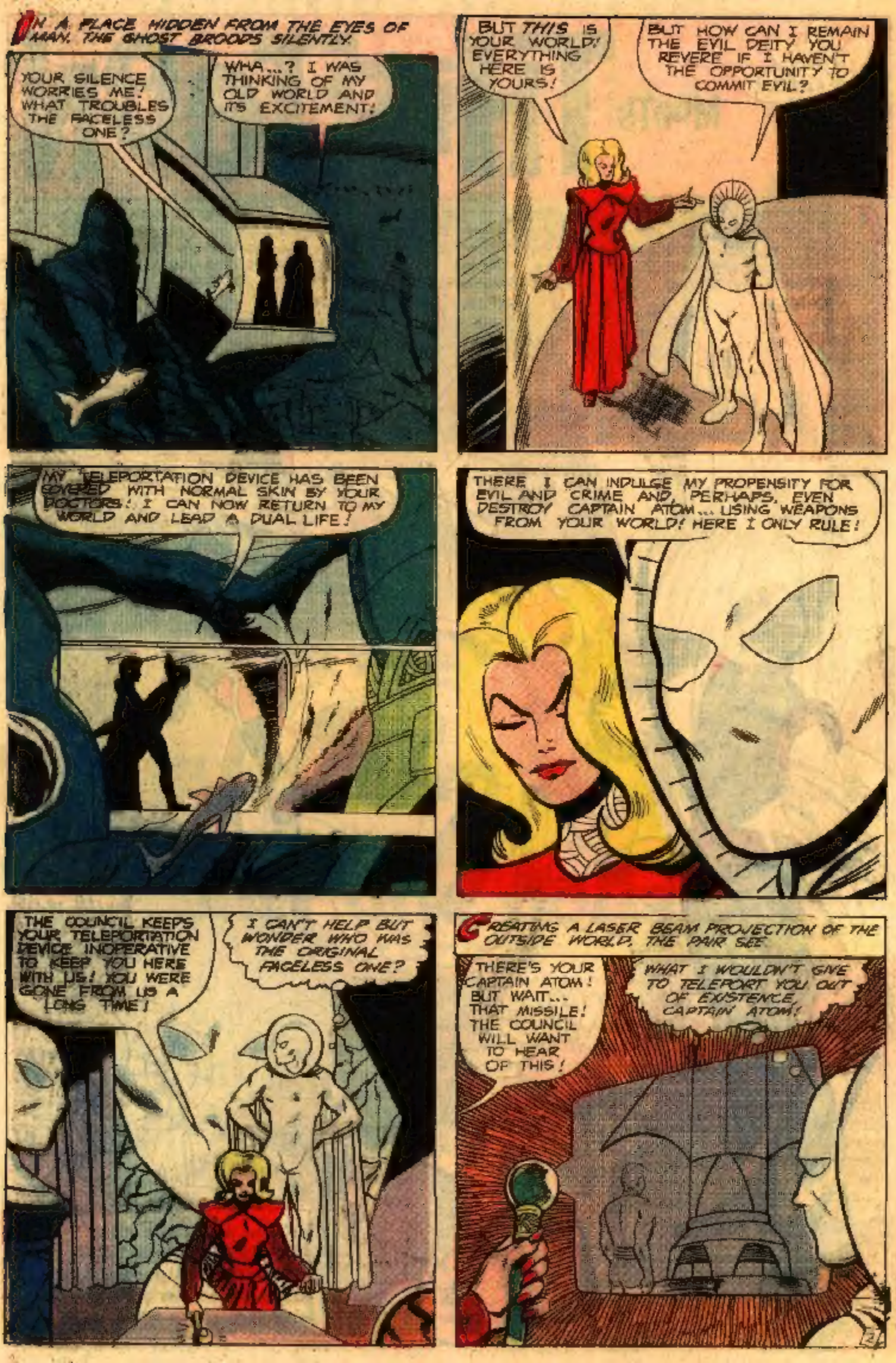
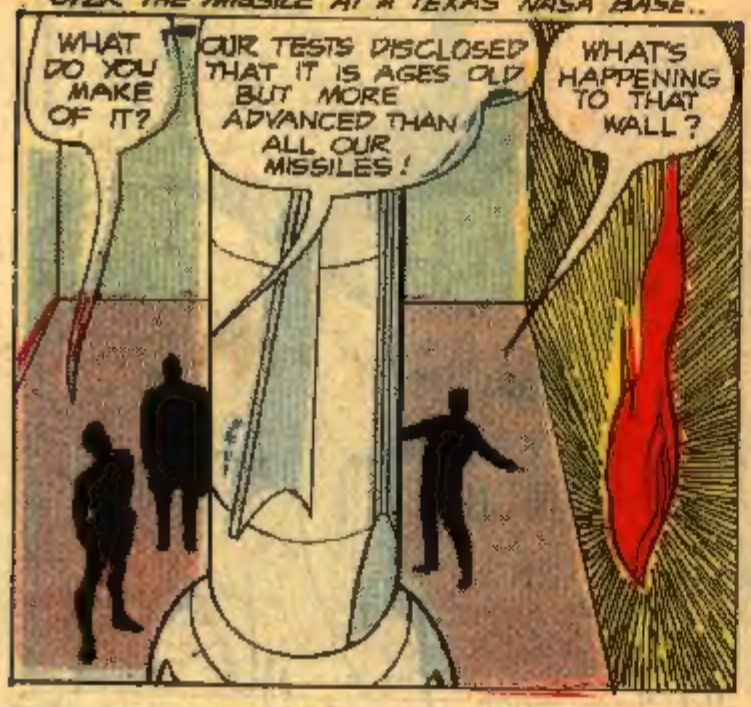
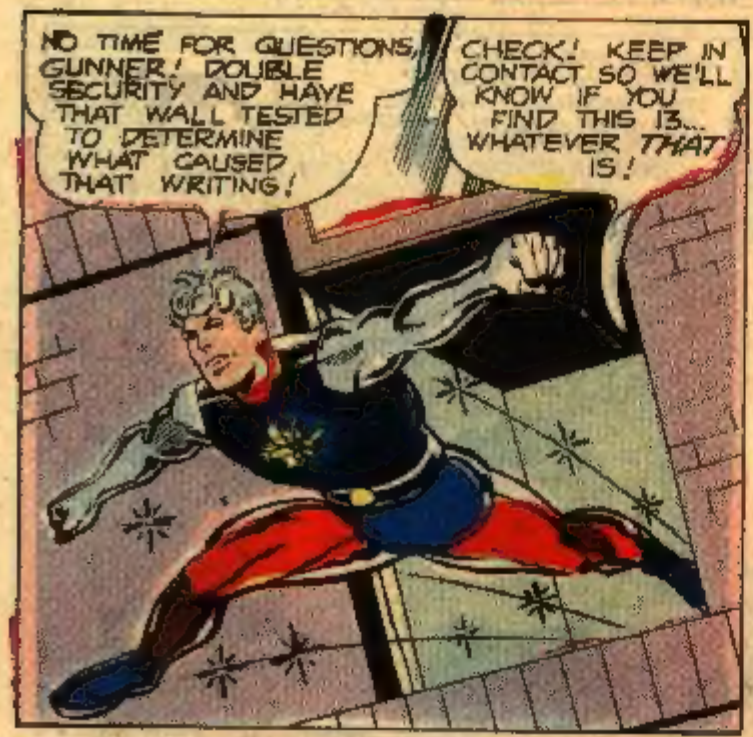

IN A PLACE HIDDEN FROM THE EYES OF MAN, THE GHOST BROODS SILENTLY.
YOUR SILENCE WORRIES ME! WHAT TROUBLES THE FACELESS ONE?
WHA...? I WAS THINKING OF MY OLD WORLD AND ITS EXCITEMENT!
BUT THIS IS YOUR WORLD! EVERYTHING HERE IS YOURS!
BUT HOW CAN I REMAIN THE EVIL DEITY YOU REVERE IF I HAVEN'T THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMIT EVIL?
MY TELEPORTATION DEVICE HAS BEEN COVERED WITH NORMAL SKIN BY YOUR DOCTORS! I CAN NOW RETURN TO MY WORLD AND LEAD A DUAL LIFE!
THERE I CAN INDULGE MY PROPENSITY FOR EVIL AND CRIME AND, PERHAPS, EVEN DESTROY CAPTAIN ATOM... USING WEAPONS FROM YOUR WORLD! HERE I ONLY RULE!
THE COUNCIL KEEPS YOUR TELEPORTATION DEVICE INOPERATIVE TO KEEP YOU HERE WITH US! YOU WERE GONE FROM US A LONG TIME!
I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHO WAS THE ORIGINAL FACELESS ONE?
CREATING A LASER BEAM PROJECTION OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD, THE PAIR SEE
THERE'S YOUR CAPTAIN ATOM! BUT WAIT... THAT MISSILE! THE COUNCIL WILL WANT TO HEAR OF THIS!
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO TELEPORT YOU OUT OF EXISTENCE CAPTAIN ATOM!

HASTENING TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WITH THE GHOST, THE STRANGE WOMAN UNFOLDS A REPORT WHICH INTRIGUES THE GHOST.
SO THE FACELESS ONE MUST RETURN TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD IN ORDER TO BRING BACK THE MISSILE! IF WE WERE TO GO, TOO MANY WOULD LEARN OF OUR EXISTENCE AND THAT WOULD BE DANGEROUS!
WHAT SHE SAYS IS TRUE!
SO THAT MISSILE WAS PUT INTO A SPACE WARP EONS AGO TO SAVE THE EARTH! WITH IT IN MY POWER, I CAN RULE EARTH WITH THE HELP OF THESE GOLDEN WOMEN!
THE FACELESS ONE MUST BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE!
AND SO THE GHOST IS SENT BACK TO WASHINGTON! HE RELISHED THE THOUGHT OF BATTLING CAPTAIN ATOM FOR CONTROL OF THE STRANGE MISSILE!
MR. ROIS! I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK! THESE CAME FOR YOU ONLY THIS MOMENT!
THANK YOU, JEFFERS!
THE GOVERNMENT WANTS ME TO HELP UNLOCK THE MISSILE! THEY'RE PLAYING INTO MY HANDS! BUT WHO SENT ME THIS CRYSTAL BALL?
SUDDENLY..
THIS IS A WARNING, GHOST! OR SHOULD I SAY MR. ROIS! DO NOT INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS TO GET THAT MISSILE! YOU'LL REGRET IT!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM! HOW...?
IS KNOWS EVERYTHING! JUST STAY OUT OF MY WAY OR SUFFER LATER!
3

AND AS CAPTAIN ATOM AND GUNNER CHECK OVER THE MISSILE AT A TEXAS NASA BASE..


WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
OUR TESTS DISCLOSED THAT IT IS AGES OLD BUT MORE ADVANCED THAN ALL OUR MISSILES!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THAT WALL?


NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS, GUNNER! DOUBLE SECURITY AND HAVE THAT WALL TESTED TO DETERMINE WHAT CAUSED THAT WRITING!
CHECK! KEEP IN CONTACT SO WE'LL KNOW IF YOU FIND THIS 13... WHATEVER THAT IS!

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

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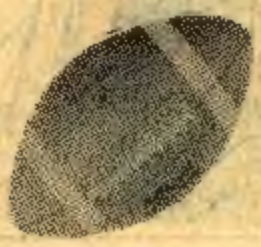
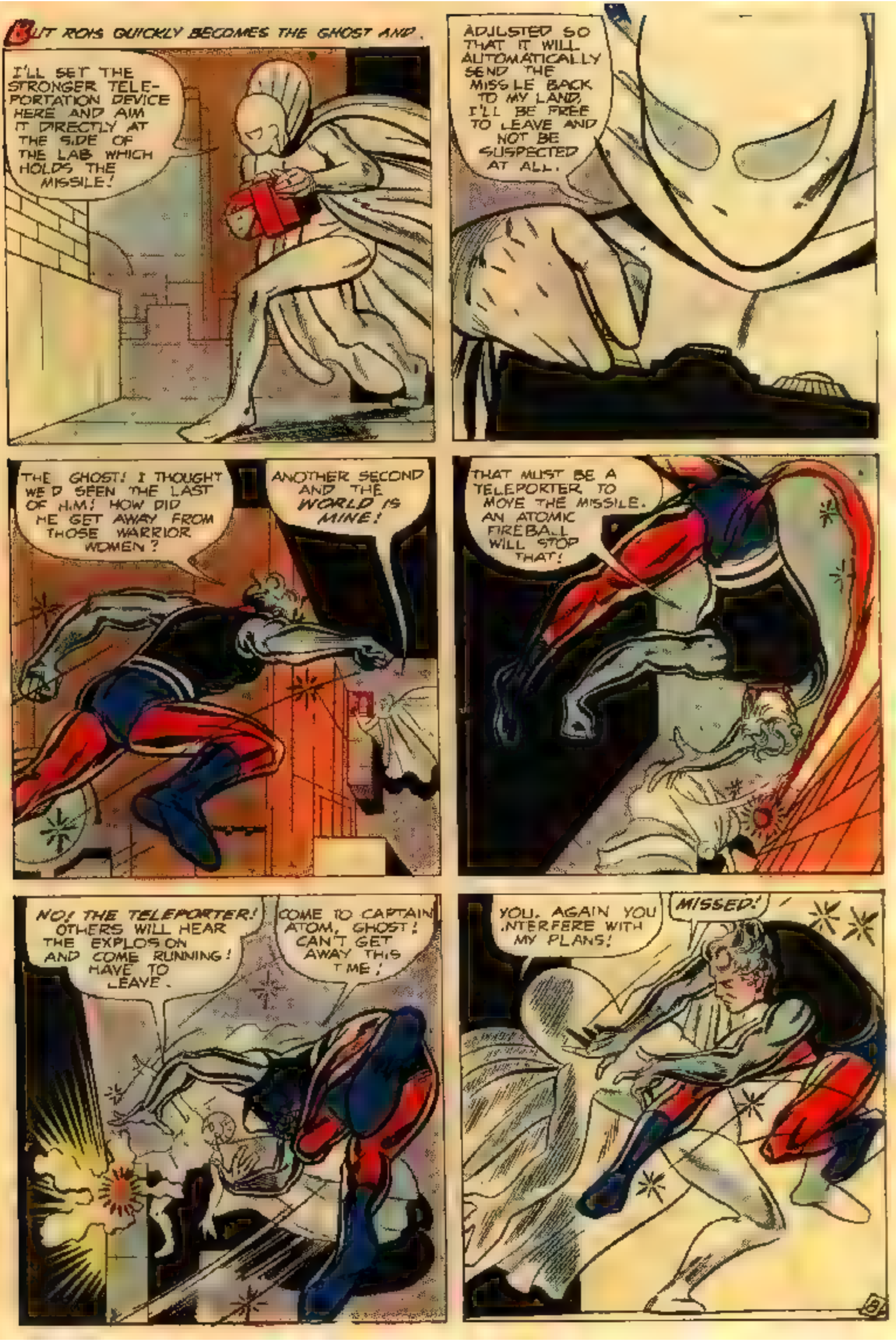


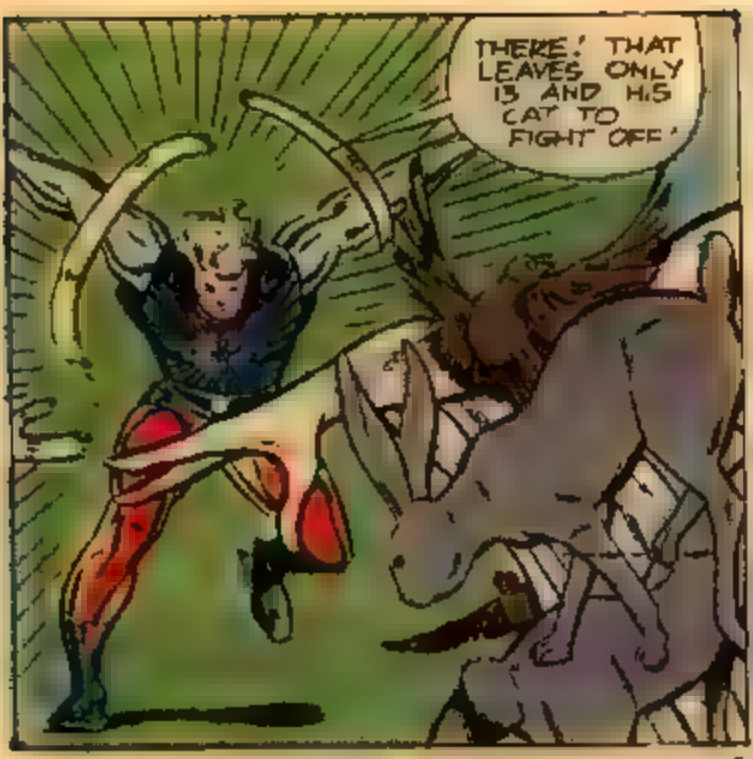
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! THESE SCARFS... THEY'RE ALIVE!
WE'VE GOT HIM, IS!
PERHAPS NOT, FAUSTUS!
ATOMIC FIRE WILL RID ME OF THESE!
HOW INGENIOUS!
INDEED A VERY WORTHY FOE!
THE SCARFS DIDN'T WORK! BUT THESE WILL!
REALLY? HOW?
JUST WATCH WHAT HAPPENS!
FLYING COINS! THEY'RE ATTACHING THEMSELVES TO MY BODY!
NOW COMES THE DELAYED SPELL! HELP ME MAKE EACH COIN WEIGH MORE THAN A TON EACH!
CERTAINLY! AND SO DOWN FALLS THE SUPER MORTAL!
ALL OF HIS POWERS COULDN'T WORK AGAINST THE MAGICAL WEIGHT OF THOSE COINS!
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO STOP US!

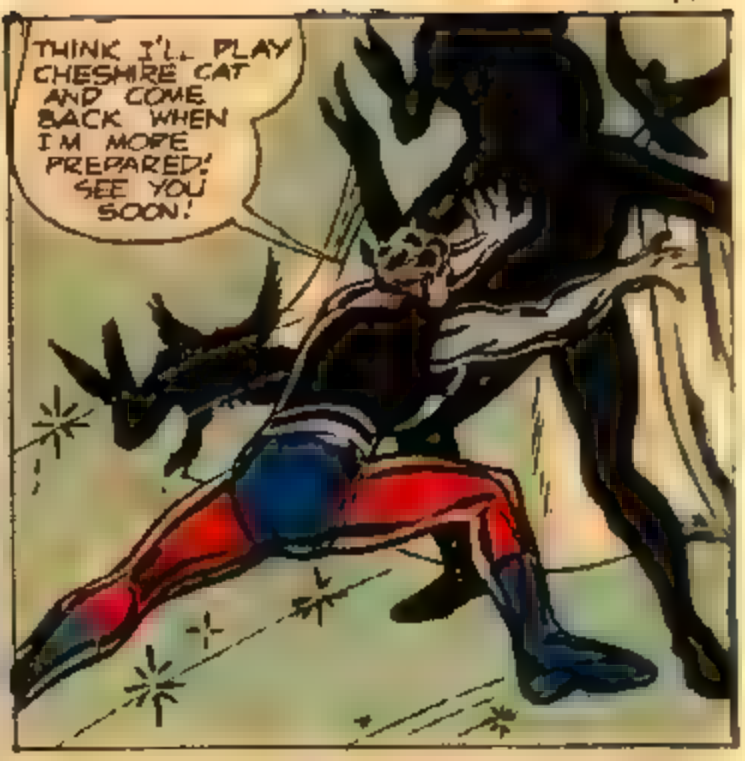
THESE COINS! SO LITTLE YET HEAVY BEYOND BELIEF! BUT WHAT'S THIS?
I USED ALL MY MIGHT TO FIGHT THE WEIGHT OF THOSE COINS AND STILL I FELL! IS ALL MY POWER USELESS AGAINST THIS MAGIC?
GOT TO GET BACK TO THE BASE TO FIGHT THIS MAGICIAN FOE! HE COULD BE TRYING TO GET THE MISSILE RIGHT NOW!
HE'S NOT HERE! WHY DIDN'T HE COME FOR IT?
WHO DIDN'T COME FOR WHAT?
I MET UP WITH THIS 13 CHARACTER AND HE USED MAGIC TO ESCAPE ME!
THAT COULD EXPLAIN WHY NOTHING WAS FOUND ON THE WALL!
THIS WIRE ARRIVED FROM ROIS! HE'S ARRIVING THIS AFTERNOON WITH HIS STAFF AND EQUIPMENT TO WORK ON THE MISSILE!
I HOPE THEY CAN DO IT BEFORE 13 STRIKES AGAIN! I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN FIGHT BLACK MAGIC WITH MY POWERS!
A FEW MORE ROUNDS OF "CAT AND MOUSE" AND THE MISSILE IS OURS!
BUT THE PRESENCE OF ROIS AS THE GHOST WILL COMPLICATE MATTERS SOMEWHAT!

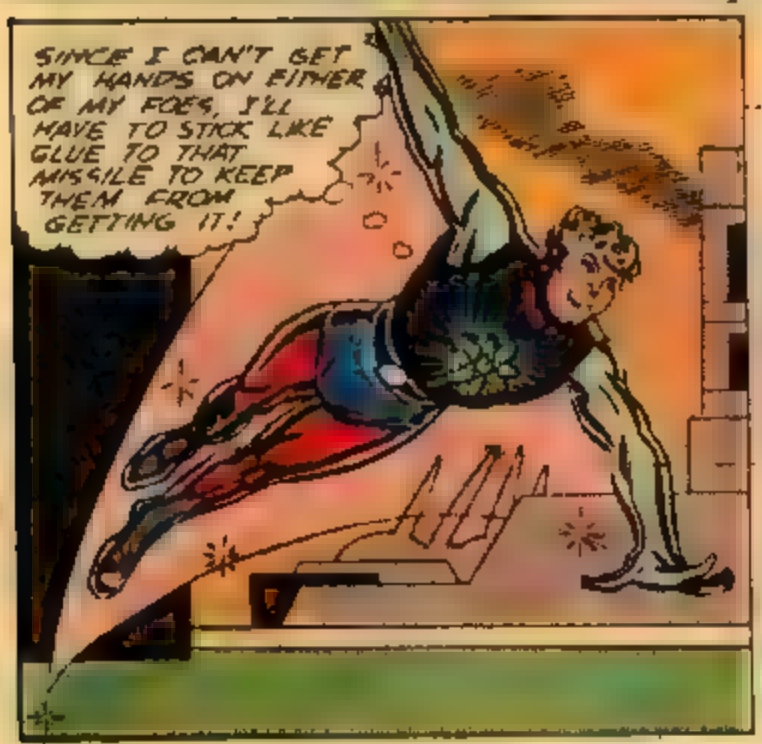
WITHIN THE HOUR ROIS ARRIVES TO FIND...
A WELCOMING COMMITTEE! CAPTAIN ADAM AND HIS FRIEND! WOULD THEY BE HERE TO GREET ME IF THEY KNEW I WAS GOING TO STEAL THEIR MISSILE?
ALEC! GREAT TO SEE YOU! GOOD TO SEE YOUR HAND IS OUT OF THE CAST!
CAPTAIN ADAM! MISSED YOU AT THE PARTIES IN D.C.!
THE STAFF WILL UNLOAD AND BRING THE EQUIPMENT LATER!
THE SOONER THE BETTER! SOMEONE NAMED 13 HAS MADE AN ATTACK ON CAPTAIN ATOM AND IS TRYING TO GET THE MISSILE!
13! I'LL HAVE TO STOP HIM AND CAPTAIN ATOM TO GET THAT MISSILE! BUT I'LL DO IT!
AND SO THE WORK BEGINS ANEW TO OPEN THE HUGE MISSILE...
MY MEN WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON IT... I'M GOING TO REST UP A BIT!
SOUNDS GREAT!
AND I'LL CHECK EVERYTHING AS CAPTAIN ATOM!
I'LL CALL YOU IF ANYTHING BIG HAPPENS!

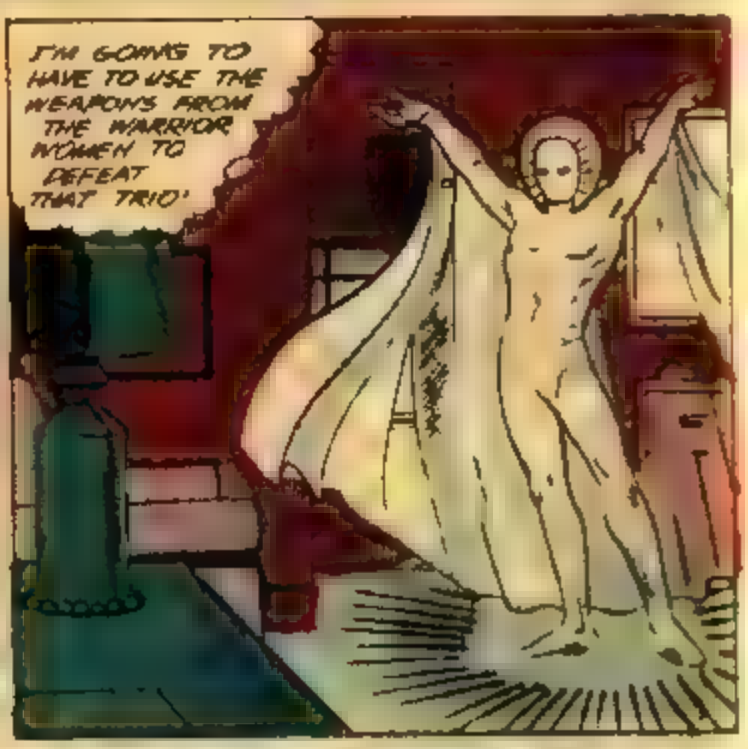

BUT ROHS QUICKLY BECOMES THE GHOST AND.
I'LL SET THE STRONGER TELE-PORTATION DEVICE HERE AND AIM IT DIRECTLY AT THE SIDE OF THE LAB WHICH HOLDS THE MISSILE!
ADJUSTED SO THAT IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY SEND THE MISSILE BACK TO MY LAND, I'LL BE FREE TO LEAVE AND NOT BE SUSPECTED AT ALL.
THE GHOST! I THOUGHT WE'D SEEN THE LAST OF HIM! HOW DID HE GET AWAY FROM THOSE WARRIOR WOMEN?
ANOTHER SECOND AND THE WORLD IS MINE!
THAT MUST BE A TELEPORTER TO MOVE THE MISSILE. AN ATOMIC FIREBALL WILL STOP THAT!
NO! THE TELEPORTER! OTHERS WILL HEAR THE EXPLOSION AND COME RUNNING! HAVE TO LEAVE.
COME TO CAPTAIN ATOM, GHOST! CAN'T GET AWAY THIS TIME!
YOU. AGAIN YOU INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS!
MISSED!

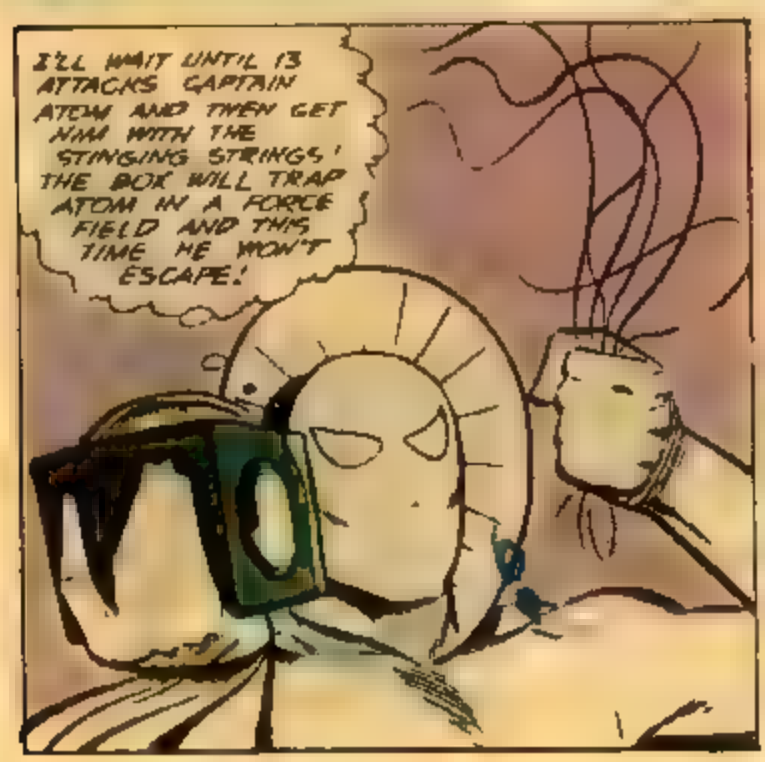
I'M GOING TO MISS YOU! BUT GO YOU MUST!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY FROM ME THIS TIME! WHAT?
IT'S BAD LUCK TIME FOR BOTH OF YOU!
13!
YOU AGAIN!
YOU REALLY SHOULD FORGET ABOUT THAT MISSILE AND LET ME HAVE IT! RIGHT, FAUSTUS?
I'LL TELEPORT YOU SO FAR FLOWERS .. BUT HOW?
JUST NORMAL HOCUS POCUS ... GHOST!
THIS ROPE TRICK I PICKED UP IN INDIA SHOULD DO! ALL YOUR POWERS CAN'T WORK AGAINST ITS MAGIC FIBERS!
MORE MAGIC! I'M POWERLESS TO FIGHT IT!
IF YOU DON'T CARE FOR FLOWERS, HAVE SOME PETS, GHOST!
AS SOON AS I RID MYSELF OF THESE I'LL RID MYSELF OF YOU!
THOSE TRICKS WILL DISAPPEAR IN A MOMENT! I'LL BE BACK TO GET THE MISSILE!
AND I'LL BE BACK TO HELP HIM!

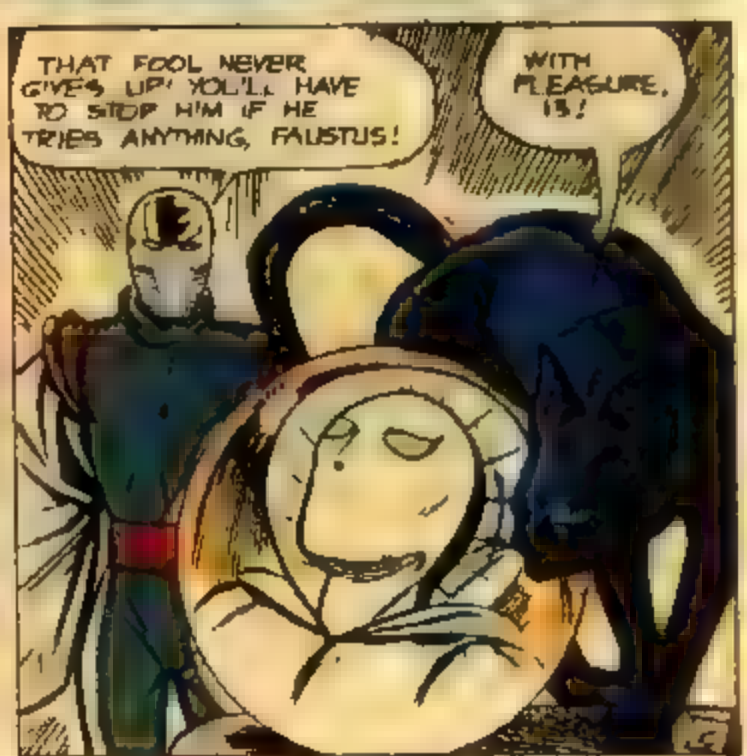









I'LL WAIT UNTIL 13 ATTACKS CAPTAIN ATOM AND THEN GET HIM WITH THE STINGING STRINGS! THE BOX WILL TRAP ATOM IN A FORCE FIELD AND THIS TIME HE WON'T ESCAPE!



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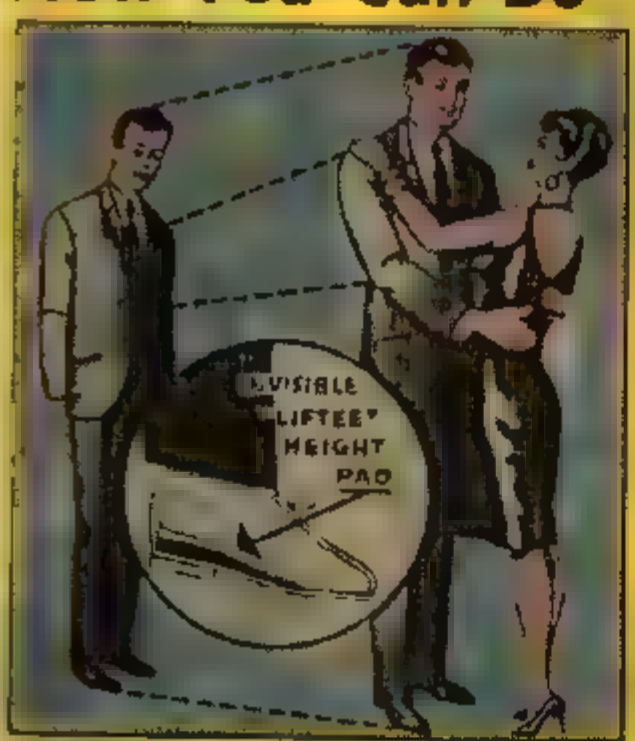

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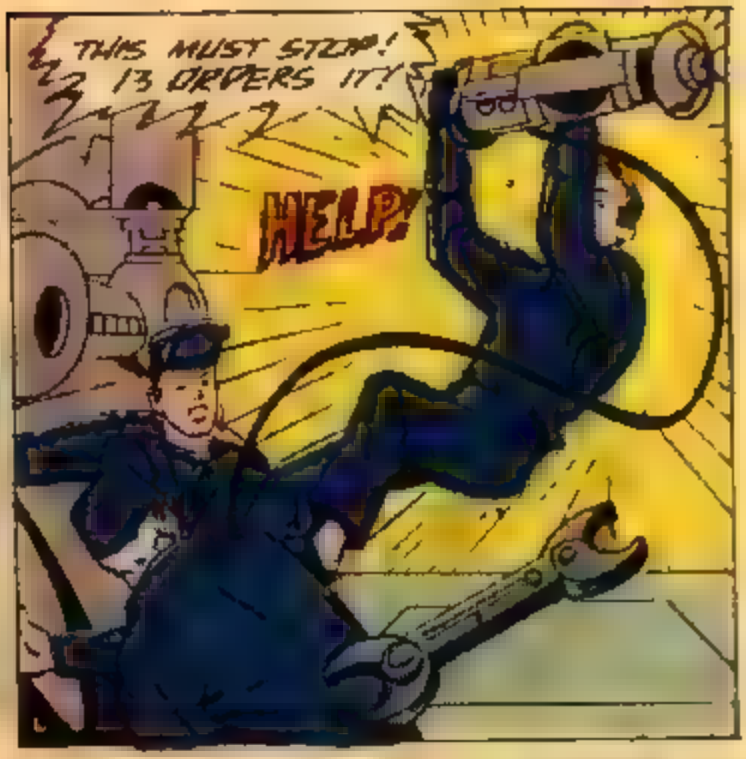
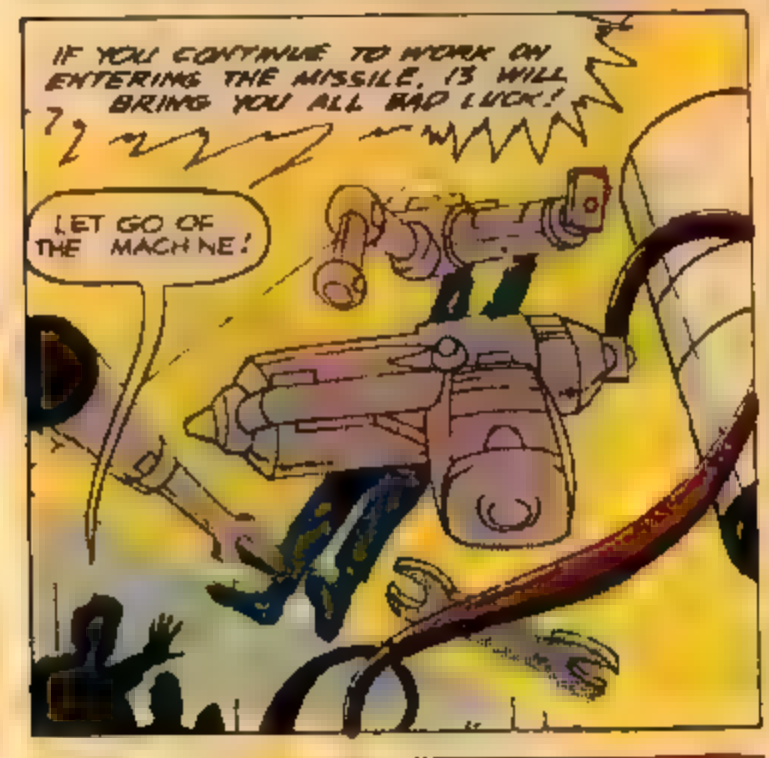
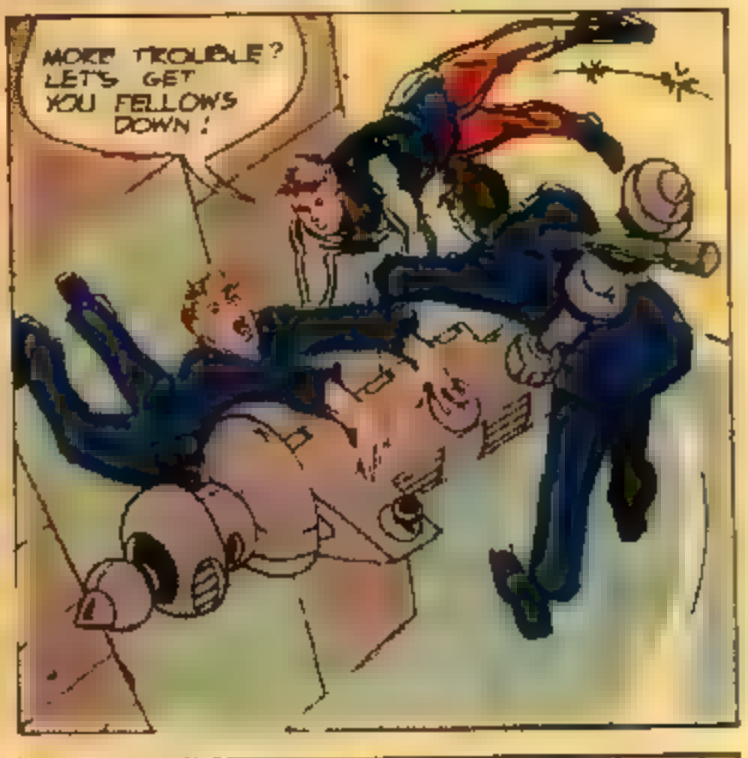
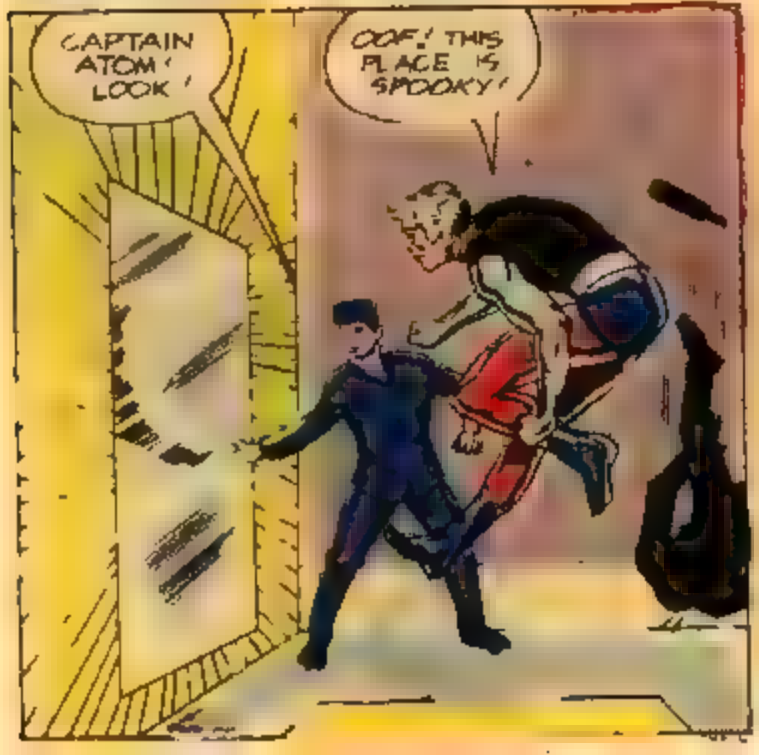
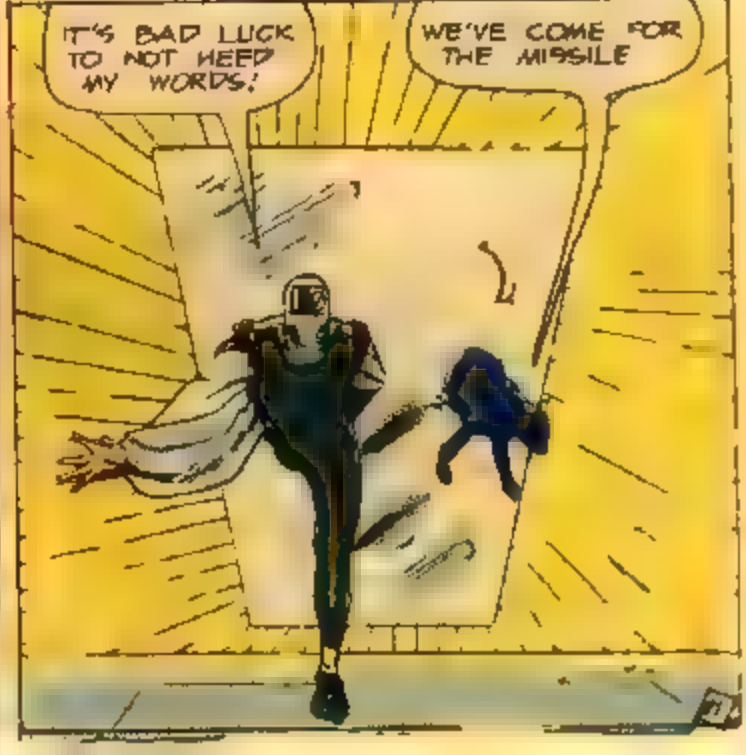
MEANWHILE OPERATIONS CONTINUE TO GAIN ENTRY TO THE MISSILE.



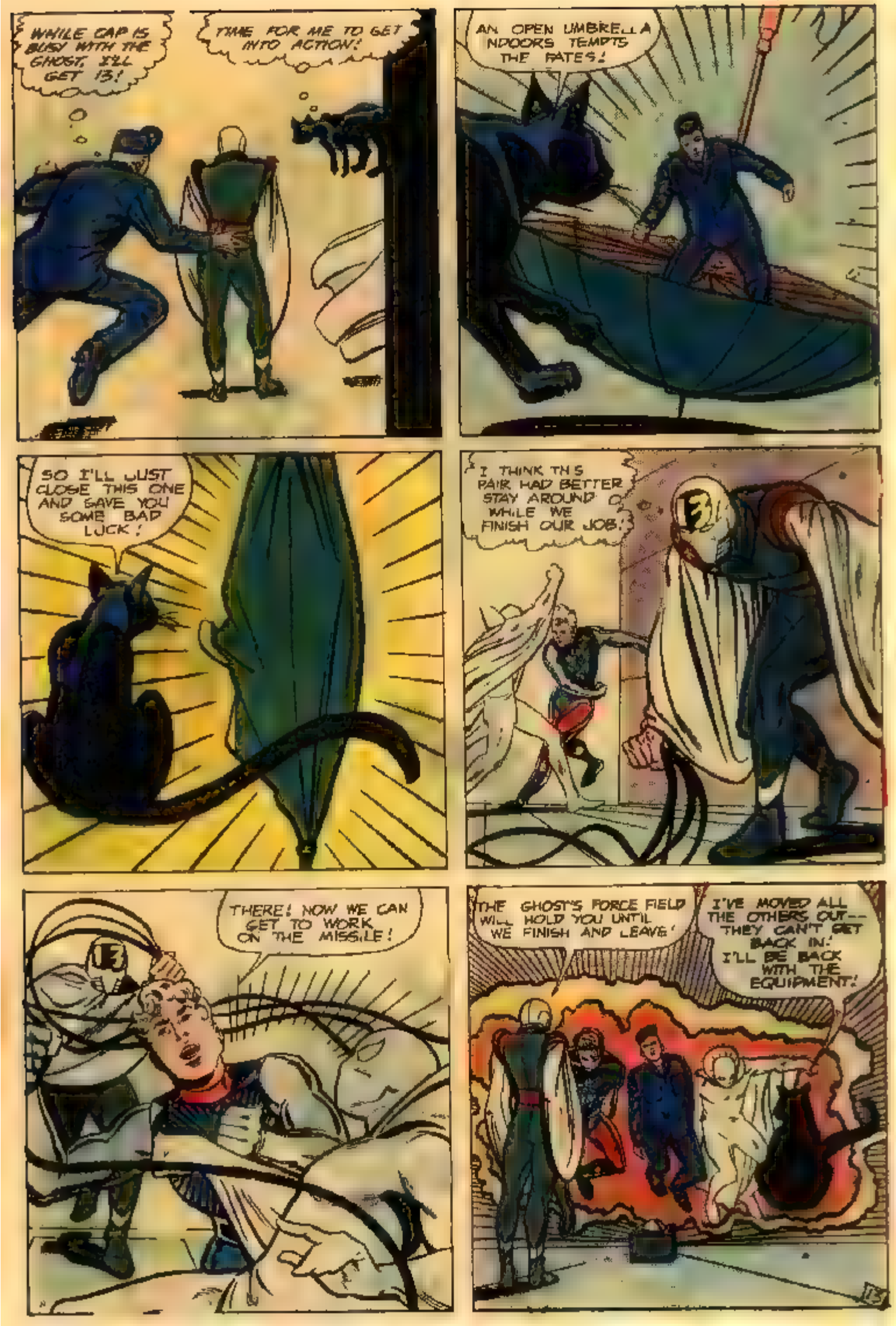




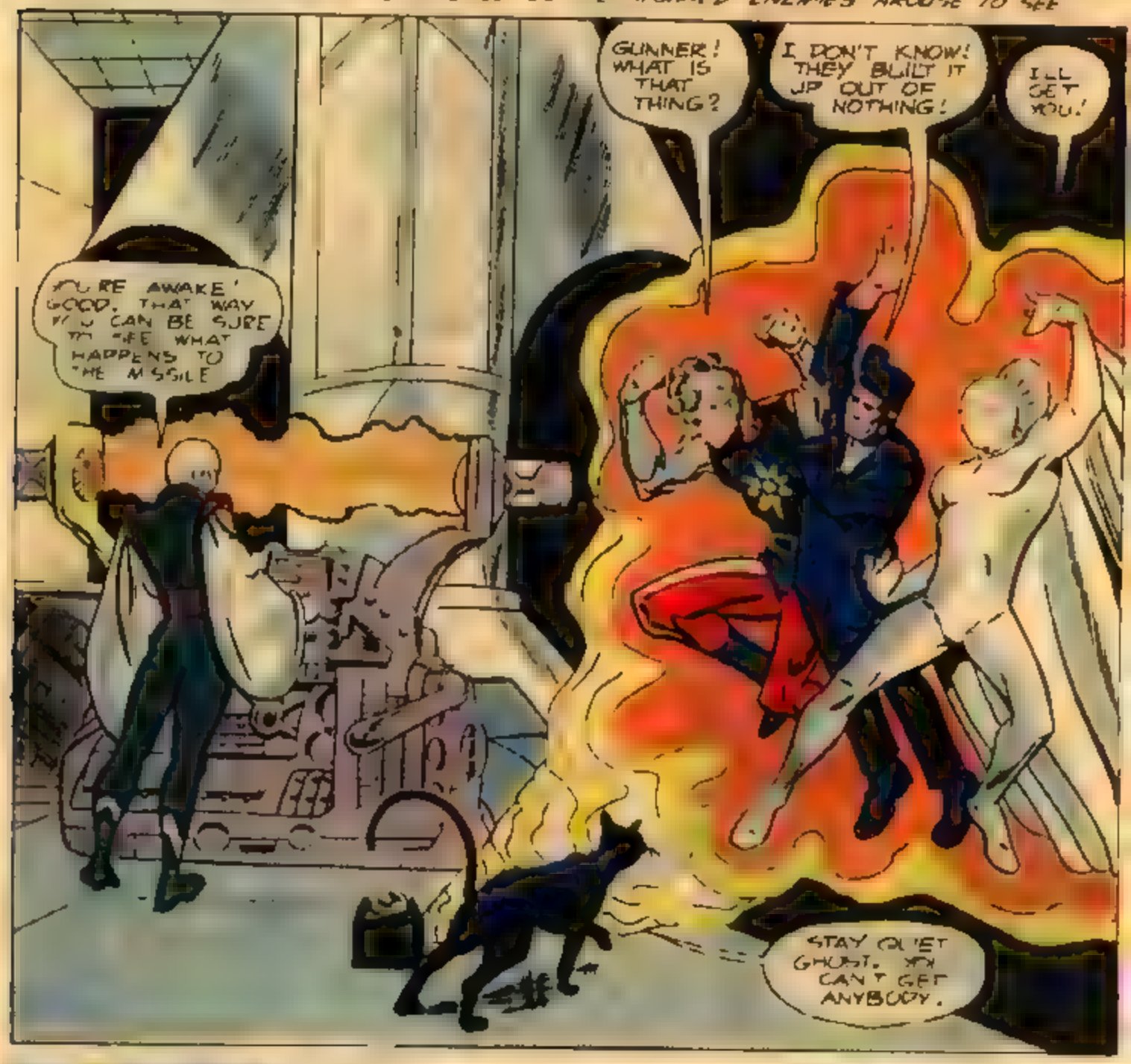


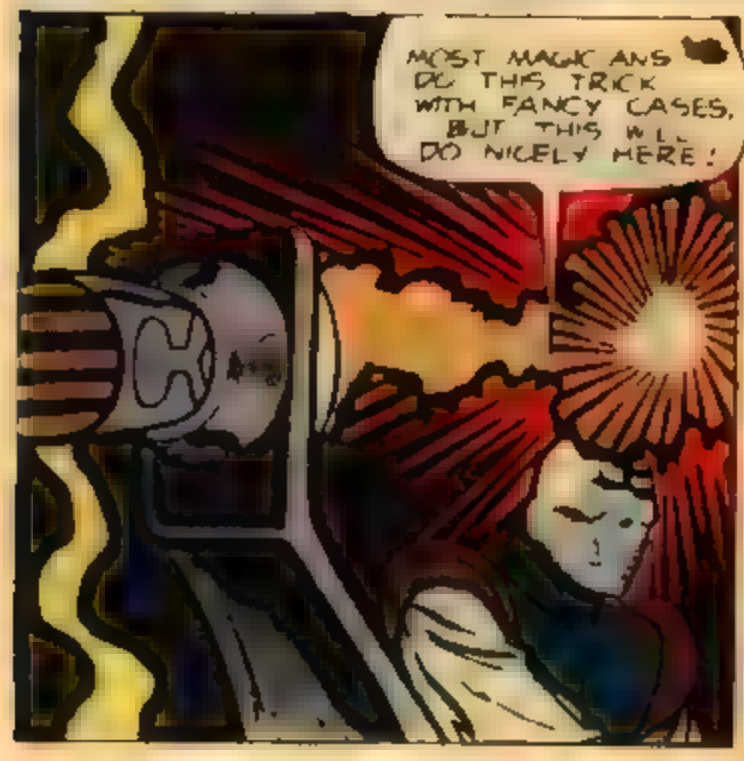


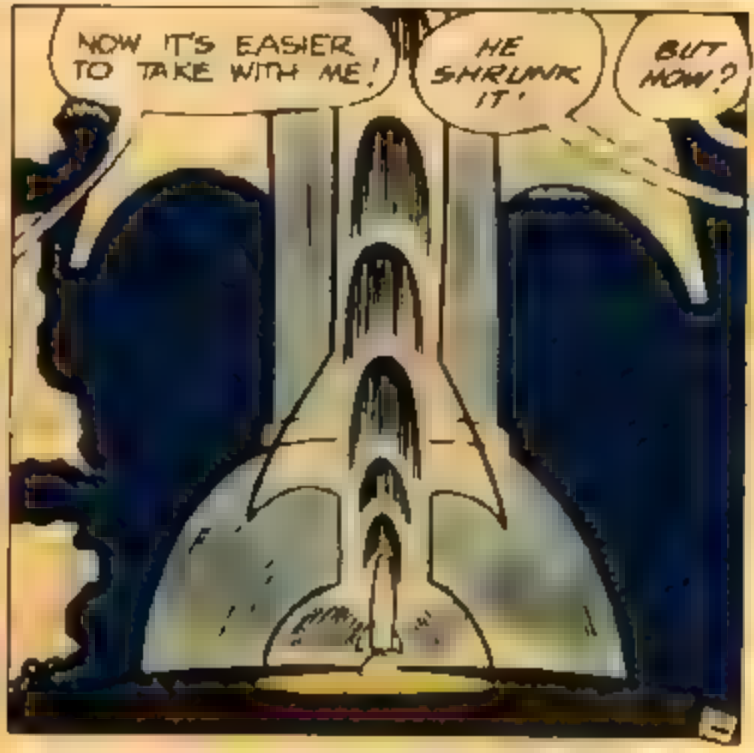
AND I'LL TAKE IT ONCE I GET YOU TWO OUT OF THE WAY!
WHO...?
THE GHOST!
SHOCKING MEETING YOU AGAIN!
NOW'S MY CHANCE WHILE HE'S BUSY WITH IS!
NO!
I'VE GOT HIM!
SEVEN YEARS BAD LUCK!
MAYBE MORE FOR THE GHOST!

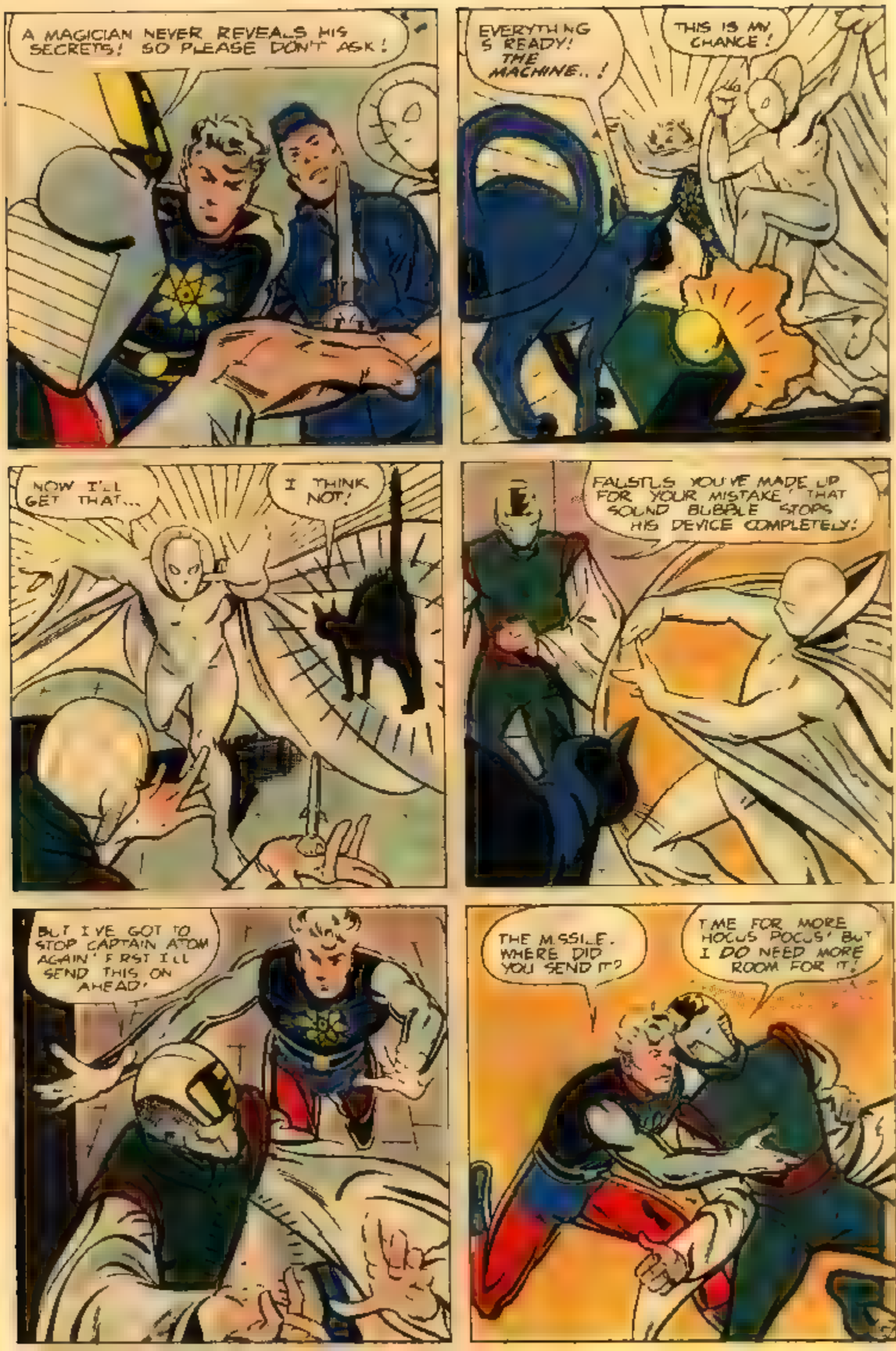

WHILE CAP IS BUSY WITH THE GHOST, I'LL GET 13!
TIME FOR ME TO GET INTO ACTION!
AN OPEN UMBRELLA INDOORS TEMPTS THE FATES!
SO I'LL JUST CLOSE THIS ONE AND GAVE YOU SOME BAD LUCK!
I THINK THIS PAIR HAD BETTER STAY AROUND WHILE WE FINISH OUR JOB!
13
THERE! NOW WE CAN GET TO WORK ON THE MISSILE!
THE GHOST'S FORCE FIELD WILL HOLD YOU UNTIL WE FINISH AND LEAVE!
I'VE MOVED ALL THE OTHERS OUT-- THEY CAN'T GET BACK IN! I'LL BE BACK WITH THE EQUIPMENT!
13

AND WITH ONLY GUNNER STILL CONSCIOUS TO WATCH IN ERECTS A LARGE MACHINE ALL ABOUT THE MISSILE ONLY WHEN IT IS FINISHED DO THE STUNNED ENEMIES AROUSE TO SEE

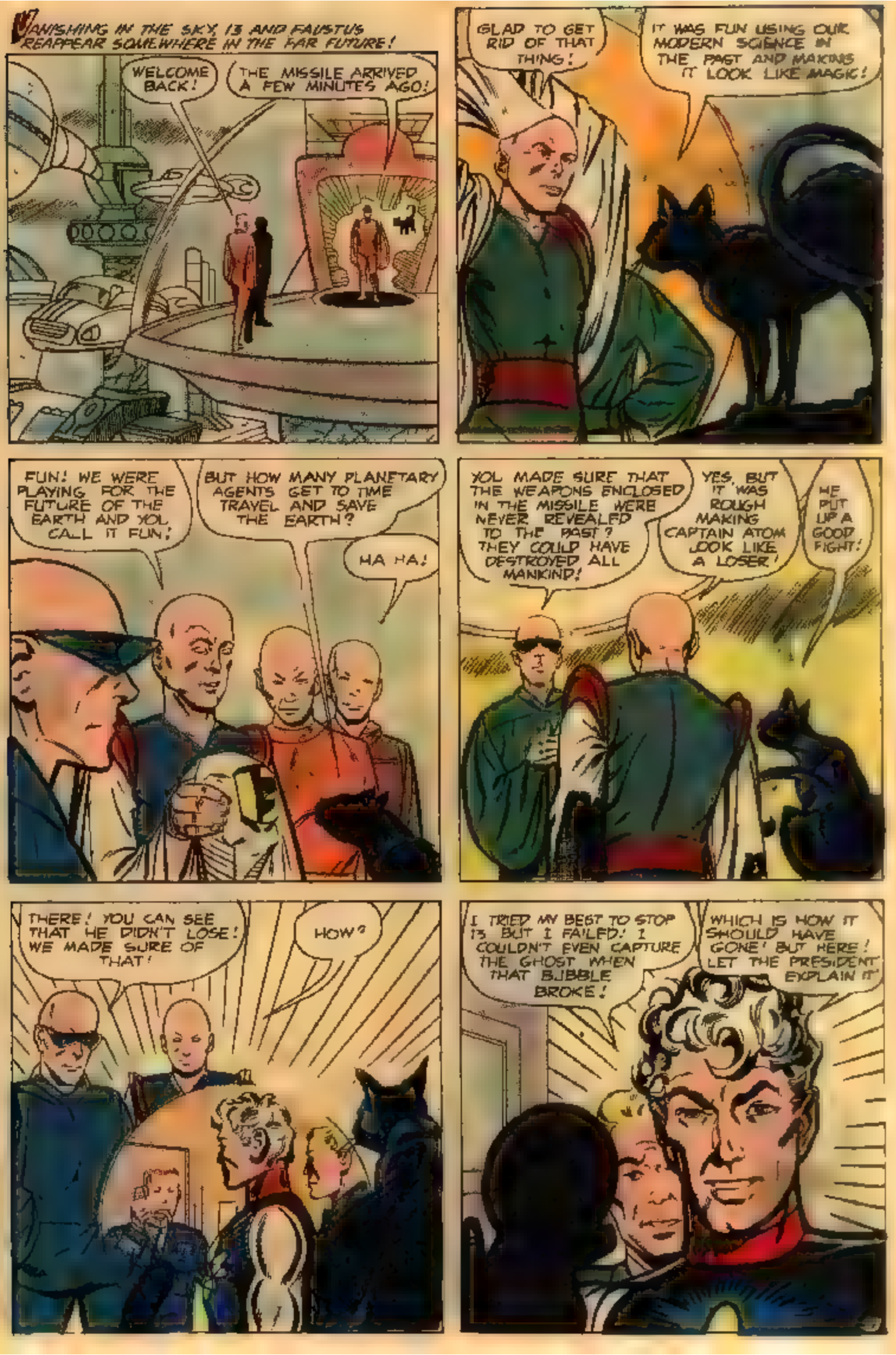

GUNNER! WHAT IS THAT THING?
I DON'T KNOW! THEY BUILT IT UP OUT OF NOTHING!
I'LL GET YOU!
YOU'RE AWAKE! GOOD. THAT WAY YOU CAN BE SURE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MISSILE
STAY QUIET GHOST. YOU CAN'T GET ANYBODY.



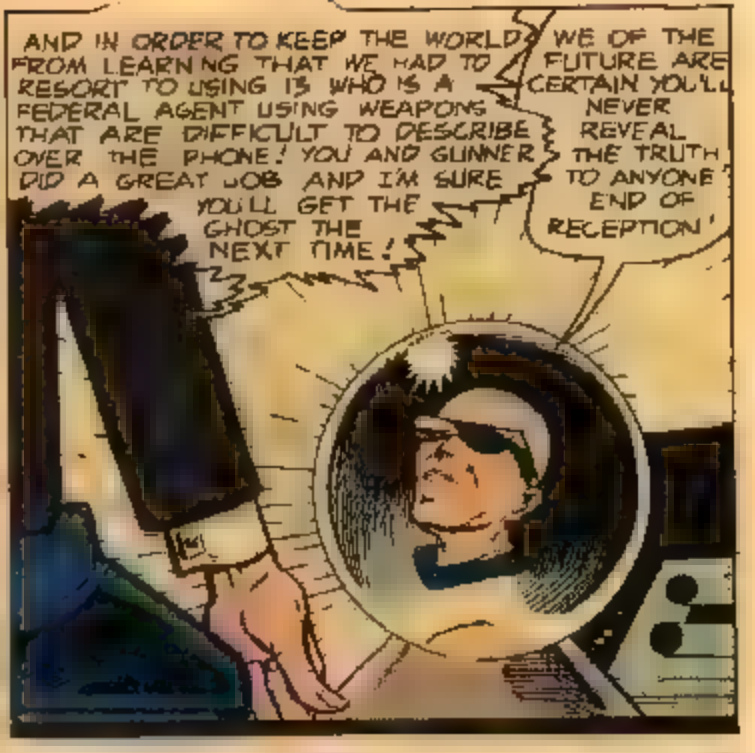


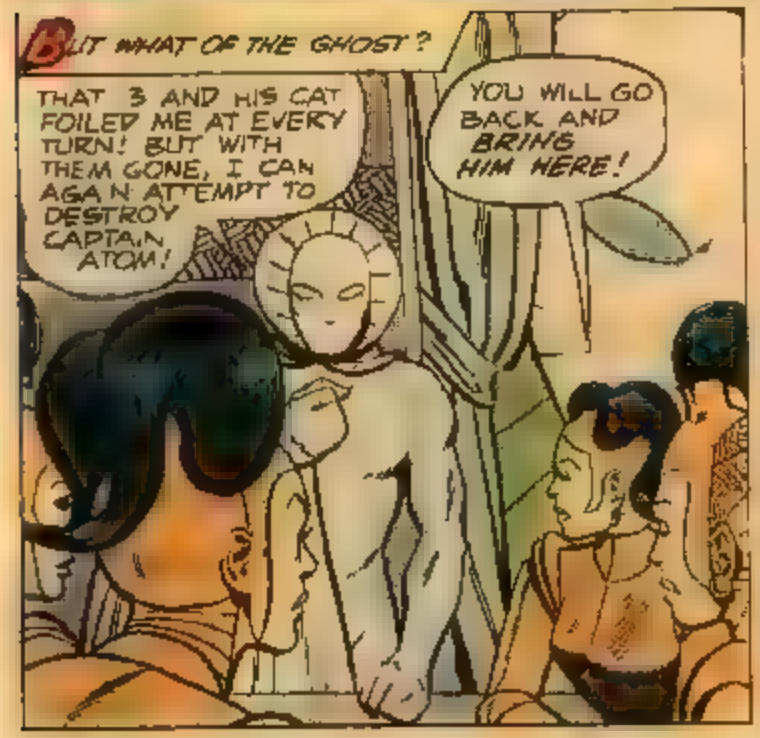

A MAGICIAN NEVER REVEALS HIS SECRETS! SO PLEASE DON'T ASK!
EVERYTHING'S READY! THE MACHINE..!
THIS IS MY CHANCE!
NOW I'LL GET THAT...
I THINK NOT!
FAUSTUS YOU'VE MADE UP FOR YOUR MISTAKE! THAT SOUND BUBBLE STOPS HIS DEVICE COMPLETELY!
BUT I'VE GOT TO STOP CAPTAIN ATOM AGAIN! FIRST I'LL SEND THIS ON AHEAD!
THE MISSILE. WHERE DID YOU SEND IT?
TIME FOR MORE HOCUS POCUS! BUT I DO NEED MORE ROOM FOR IT!

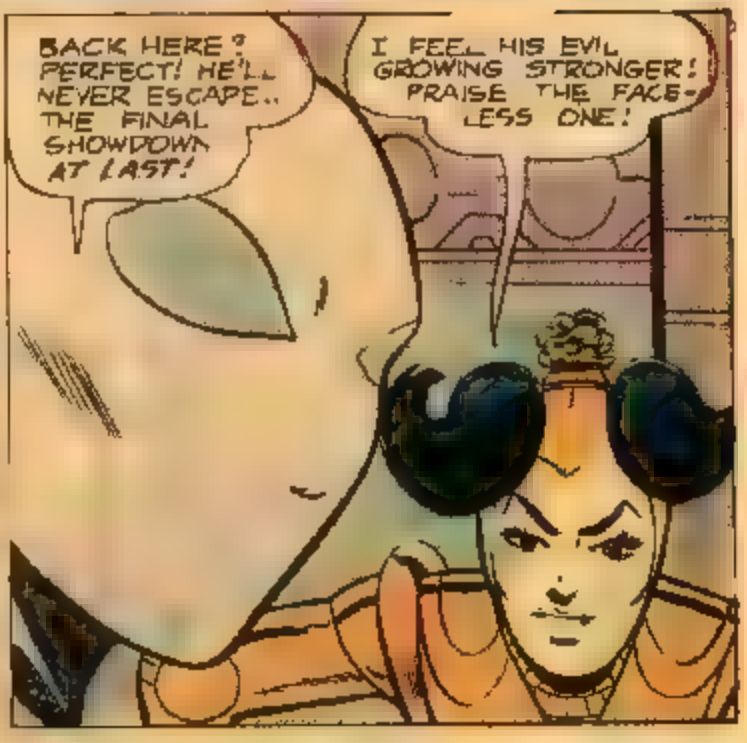
WE'RE OUTSIDE! MORE MAGIC!
WHAT ELSE? NOW TO ESCAPE YOUR GRASP!
THIS CAN'T BE MAGIC! MAGIC CAN'T CREATE A SOUND WAVE TO HOLD ME!
ANOTHER PIECE OF MAGIC..
THERE! I'M EVEN BETTER THAN HOUDINI IN ESCAPING TRAPS. ALTHOUGH HE NEVER FACED A SUPER HERO!
CHAINS THESE I CAN BREAK OUT OF!
NO NEED TO BREAK THEM! I'VE GOT WHAT I CAME FOR AND THE CHAINS WERE ONLY A STALLING DEVICE! THE GAME IS OVER!
OH NO! NOT JUST YET!
MY BUT YOU'RE STUBBORN!
CAN'T ANYTHING STOP YOU?
THERE'S REALLY NO NEED TO STOP US AS WE'RE LEAVING!
WE WON'T BE TROUBLING YOU EVER AGAIN!
I'VE GOT TO CATCH THEM!
I'VE FAILED! AS SOON AS THIS SOUND BUBBLE BREAKS, I'LL TELEPORT AWAY!

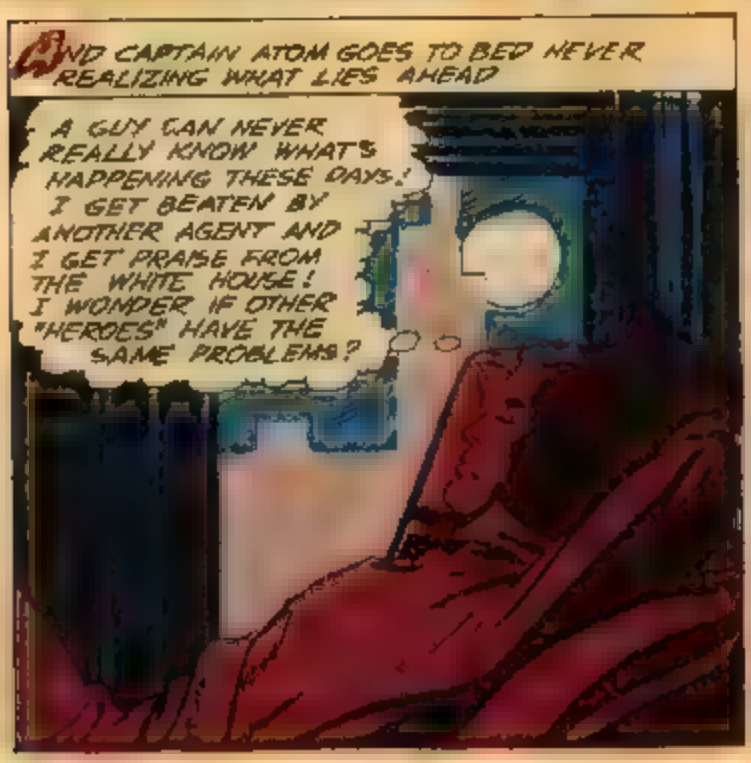

VANISHING IN THE SKY, 13 AND FAUSTUS REAPPEAR SOMEWHERE IN THE FAR FUTURE!
WELCOME BACK!
THE MISSILE ARRIVED A FEW MINUTES AGO!
GLAD TO GET RID OF THAT THING!
IT WAS FUN USING OUR MODERN SCIENCE IN THE PAST AND MAKING IT LOOK LIKE MAGIC!
FUN! WE WERE PLAYING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE EARTH AND YOU CALL IT FUN!
BUT HOW MANY PLANETARY AGENTS GET TO TIME TRAVEL AND SAVE THE EARTH?
HA HA!
YOU MADE SURE THAT THE WEAPONS ENCLOSED IN THE MISSILE WERE NEVER REVEALED TO THE PAST? THEY COULD HAVE DESTROYED ALL MANKIND!
YES, BUT IT WAS ROUGH MAKING CAPTAIN ATOM LOOK LIKE A LOSER!
HE PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT!
THERE! YOU CAN SEE THAT HE DIDN'T LOSE! WE MADE SURE OF THAT!
HOW?
I TRIED MY BEST TO STOP 13 BUT I FAILED! I COULDN'T EVEN CAPTURE THE GHOST WHEN THAT BUBBLE BROKE!
WHICH IS HOW IT SHOULD HAVE GONE! BUT HERE! LET THE PRESIDENT EXPLAIN IT!

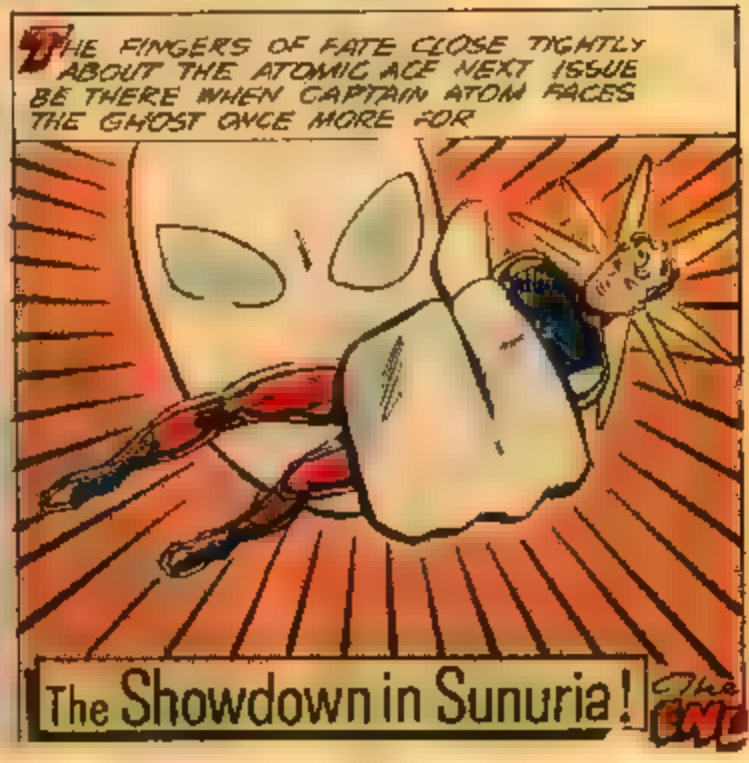
THE PRESIDENT! GULP!
SORRY WE HAD TO KEEP YOU IN THE DARK, CAPTAIN ATOM! BUT IF YOU HAD TO PRETEND TO FIGHT OUT AGENT .3 IT MIGHT NOT HAVE LOOKED AS REAL TO THE GHOST! WE WANTED TO GET THAT MISSILE TO A SECRET BASE AND DESTROY IT!


AND IN ORDER TO KEEP THE WORLD FROM LEARNING THAT WE HAD TO RESORT TO USING IS WHO IS A FEDERAL AGENT USING WEAPONS THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE OVER THE PHONE! YOU AND GUNNER DID A GREAT JOB AND I'M SURE YOU'LL GET THE GHOST THE NEXT TIME!
WE OF THE FUTURE ARE CERTAIN YOU'LL NEVER REVEAL THE TRUTH TO ANYONE! END OF RECEPTION!


BUT WHAT OF THE GHOST?
THAT 3 AND HIS CAT FOILED ME AT EVERY TURN! BUT WITH THEM GONE, I CAN AGAIN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY CAPTAIN ATOM!
YOU WILL GO BACK AND BRING HIM HERE!

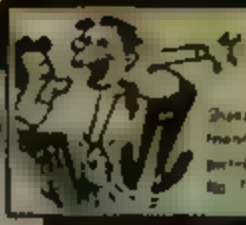

BACK HERE? PERFECT! HE'LL NEVER ESCAPE.. THE FINAL SHOWDOWN AT LAST!
I FEEL HIS EVIL GROWING STRONGER! PRAISE THE FACELESS ONE!


AND CAPTAIN ATOM GOES TO BED NEVER REALIZING WHAT LIES AHEAD
A GUY CAN NEVER REALLY KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING THESE DAYS! I GET BEATEN BY ANOTHER AGENT AND I GET PRAISE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE! I WONDER IF OTHER "HEROES" HAVE THE SAME PROBLEMS?


THE FINGERS OF FATE CLOSE TIGHTLY ABOUT THE ATOMIC AGE NEXT ISSUE BE THERE WHEN CAPTAIN ATOM FACES THE GHOST ONCE MORE FOR
The Showdown in Sunuria!
The END

EXCLUSIVE FUN PRODUCTS *by mail*

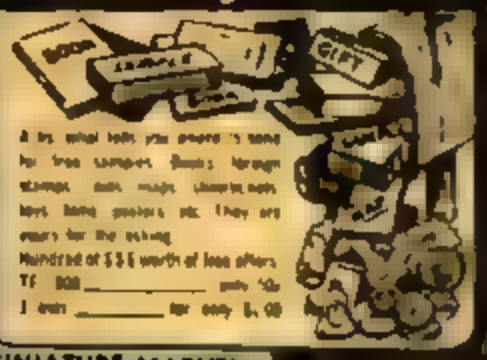
TRICK BASEBALL

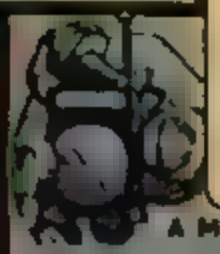


JOY BUZZER

X-RAY SPEX

1001 things for FREE!





A MINIATURE MARVEL

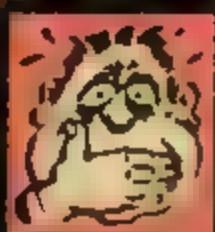
LOUD NOSE BLOWER

BIKE SPEEDOMETER

SILVER SKULL RING

GROW LIVE MONSTERS

MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

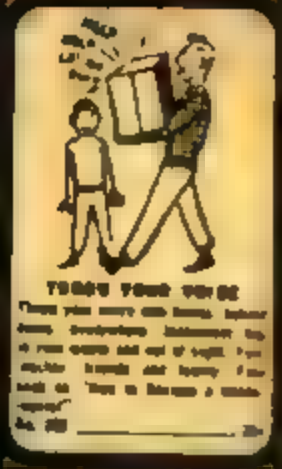


PEPPER GUM

FLY IN ICE

SPIDER RING

JIU JITSU



ZOOM GRRR WHAM

PRANKSTER WHISTLE

TRICK BLACK SOAP

Ordinary looking piece of soap. Victim washes face and gets blacker and blacker. When he gets a look in the mirror he ...

Only 25c

REGENCY MAIL ORDER DEPT. S-GK10
BOX 826 NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. 14302

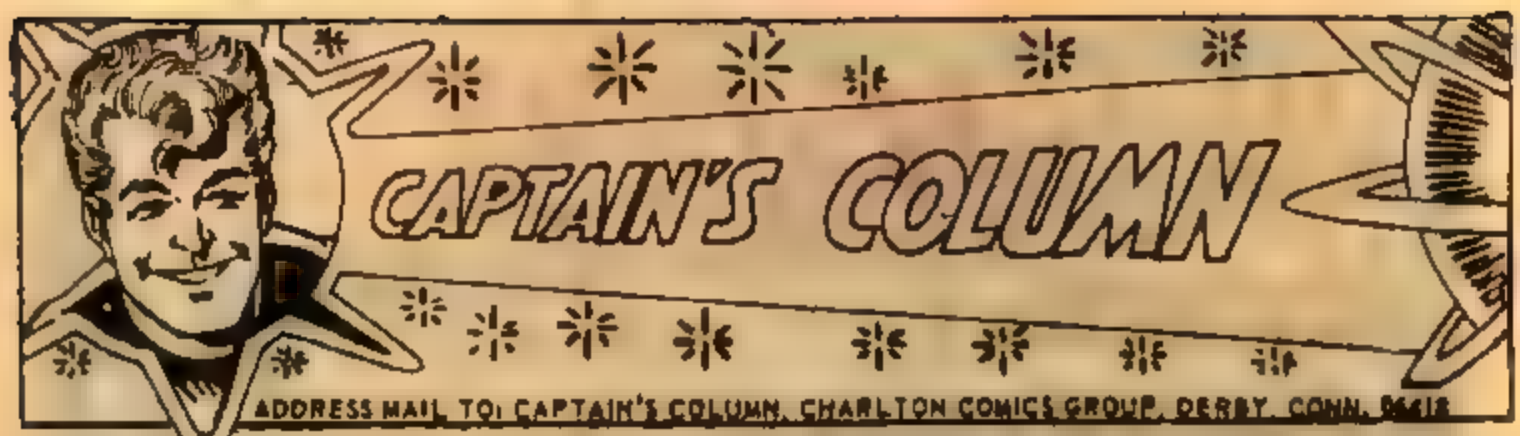
RUSH ME THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW. If I am not 100% delighted I may return any part of my purchase after the 10 day free trial for full refund.

ITEM NO.	NAME OF ITEM	HOW MANY	TOTAL

I enclose _____ for postage and shipping. Sales tax if any.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____



ADDRESS MAIL TO: CAPTAIN'S COLUMN, CHARLTON COMICS GROUP, DERBY, CONN. 06418

DEAR EDITOR:

I HAVE JUST FINISHED READING CAPT. ATOM NO. 88 FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME, AND IT IS BY FAR ONE OF THE BEST ISSUES YET. DAVE KALER WROTE THE CAPT. ATOM STORY BEAUTIFULLY. I NEVER DID LIKE THE IDEA OF TIME TRAVEL MUCH, SINCE IT WEAKENS THE CHARACTER OF THE PERSON WHO DOES IT AND THE ORIGINALITY OF THE PLOT, BUT DAVE AND STEVE DID THE STORY SO WELL THAT YOU BARELY REALIZED THAT CAP WENT BACK IN TIME. ALSO, CAPT. ATOM SAVING A DEAD PLANET WAS A NOVEL IDEA. THE NIGHTSHADE STORY WAS HANDLED MUCH BETTER THAN LAST ISSUE'S STORY.

NOW, TO SOME OF YOUR COMICS. [redacted] BEETLE IS ONE OF YOUR BETTER CHARACTERS. NEVER TAKE DITKO OFF THE SERIES. (BY THE WAY, WHEN I BOUGHT THIS MONTH'S ISSUE, (NO. 2) THE LAST FEW PAGES OF THE QUESTION STORY WERE MISSING.) THE QUESTION IS GOOD, BUT COULD STAND IMPROVEMENT. JUDO-MASTER IS A GREAT HERO AND HIS COSTUME AND FORELOCK REALLY TURN ME ON. THE PEACEMAKER WOULD BE BETTER WITH A DIFFERENT ARTIST, BUT HIS ADVENTURES ARE WRITTEN WELL. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, I AGREE THAT THUNDERBOLT SHOULD HAVE A NEW COSTUME. ENCLOSED WITH THIS LETTER IS MY IDEA OF HOW HE SHOULD LOOK.

GOOD LUCK AND KEEP UP THE IMPROVEMENT THAT YOU HAVE MADE IN THE PAST YEAR.

STEVEN D. GRANT
5805 MEADOWOOD DRIVE
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53711

WE'LL TRY, STEVE. OUR AIM IS, OF COURSE, TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO IMPROVE...WHICH CAN NEVER BE.

I ASSURE YOU THAT WE PUT ALL OF THE PAGES OF THE QUESTION STORY IN B.B. NO. 2. IF YOUR COPY HAD PAGES MISSING WHEN YOU PURCHASED IT, WE SUGGEST THAT YOU COMPLAIN TO YOUR DEALER.

DEAR MR. GIORDANO:

I JUST BOUGHT CA NO. 88, AND I ALMOST WISH I HADN'T. NOT EVEN STEVE DITKO'S MAGNIFICENT ARTWORK COULD HAVE SAVED THE LEAD STORY, AN OBVIOUSLY PADDED, ALMOST PLOT-LESS *POW!* *ZONK!* *BAM!* ERY MADE EVEN WORSE BY THE USE OF A. MACHINE'S "LETTERING TECHNIQUES." ISN'T IT WORTH A FEW EXTRA DOLLARS FOR THE SERVICES OF A PROFESSIONAL LETTERER?

THE ISSUE WAS SAVED BY DITKO'S AFOREMENTIONED ART AND BY THE ART, STORY, AND *LETTERING* OF THE *NIGHTSHADE* STRIP. THE *IMAGE* WAS INDEED A WORTHY OPPONENT FOR THE DARLING OF DARKNESS.

GETTING BACK TO CAPT. ATOM, I MUST SAY THAT THE INTENTION OF THE WRITER WAS GOOD. IT IS GOOD TO SEE CA BATTLING SOMEONE OTHER THAN A BUNCH OF PETTY CROOKS, BUT LET'S HAVE BETTER PLOTS, *PLEASE.*

SINCERELY,
CHARLES CALABRESE
139 GUMPS LANE
WINTERSVILLE, OHIO
43952

IT'S REALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SATISFY EVERYONE, CHARLES, AS YOU CAN SEE BY THE ABOVE LETTER.

A. MACHINE IS NOT EMPLOYED TO SAVE MONEY. IT IS SIMPLY AN EXPEDIENCY. OUR EDITORIAL OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN CONNECTICUT, A. MACHINE IS LOCATED IN OUR EDITORIAL OFFICES. PROFESSIONAL LETTERERS ARE LOCATED IN NEW YORK. WE ALSO PREFER HAND LETTERING AND USE IT WHENEVER POSSIBLE. OFTEN, THE TIME REQUIRED TO SEND A JOB TO NEW YORK AND WAIT FOR ITS RETURN IS SIMPLY NOT AVAILABLE.

INCIDENTALLY, THE LETTERING ON NIGHTSHADE WAS DONE BY JIM APARO, THE ARTIST ON NIGHTSHADE. (WE DIDN'T MISS YOUR POINT!)

DEAR SIR:

CAPTAIN ATOM NO. 88 WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST MAGS THAT CHARLTON HAS EVER PRODUCED. MC LAUGHLIN'S EMBELLISHMENT OF DITKO'S ARTWORK GREATLY IMPROVED THE ART. HE FILLS IN DITKO'S LACK OF DETAIL (ESPECIALLY IN THE FACES) VERY WELL. PLEASE, PLEASE MAKE MC LAUGHLIN DITKO'S PERMANENT INKER.

THE MAIN REASON I'M WRITING HOWEVER, IS TO COMMENT ON NIGHTSHADE, WHO'S ONE OF THE MOST ORIGINAL CHARACTERS IN COMICDOM. "POETRY OF PERIL" SHOWED HOW WELL YOU CAN DO IF YOU TRY. THE ART WAS MAGNIFICENT - JIM APARO WAS AT HIS HEIGHT. HE IS ONE OF YOUR BEST ARTISTS AND I WISH THAT HE WERE USED MORE OFTEN.

EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT *THE IMAGE* WAS A DIRECT COPY OF DC'S MIRROR MASTER, THE STORY WAS QUITE GOOD ALSO. IT WAS WELL DEVELOPED AND EASY TO FOLLOW.

FINALLY, I'D LIKE TO ADD THAT I LIKED THE FYRE FRAY IN CHARLTON PREMIERE NO. 1 A LOT.

A NEW FAN,
CHARLES PERKINS
12 GRAY GARDENS EAST
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138

P.S. WHAT DOES THE CDC STAND FOR ON THE COVER?

DITKO'S PENCIL WORK DOES NOT LACK DETAIL. LIKE MOST PENCILLERS HE DOES NOT INDICATE SHADING ON EITHER BACKGROUNDS OR FIGURE, LEAVING THESE TASKS TO THE INKER. ROCKE INKS IT ONE WAY, FRANK MC LAUGHLIN ANOTHER. FRANK PUT IN MORE SHADING THAN RACKE CUSTOMARILY DID. HENCE, THE APPEARANCE OF "MORE DETAIL."

THANKS FOR YOUR KIND COMMENTS ON NIGHTSHADE. I'M SURE THAT DAVE KALER AND JIM APARO ARE MOST PLEASED WITH FAN REACTION ON THEIR CREATION.

CDC STANDS FOR CAPITAL DISTRIBUTING COMPANY.

DEAR EDITOR:

WHERE HAS FRANK MC LAUGHLIN BEEN? DOING JUDOMASTER, OF COURSE, BUT CAPTAIN ATOM SHOULD HAVE HAD FRANK'S TALENTS ALL ALONG. THE INKS ON CA NO. 88 WERE MAGNIFICENT! DITTO STEVE D TKO'S PENCILS. THIS IS THE BEST I'VE SEEN STEVE DRAW FOR CHARLTON, AND EVEN TOPS MOST OF THE WORK HE DID ON *SPIDER-MAN*. THERE WAS SUFFICIENT DETAIL, WITHOUT BECOMING CLUTTERED, WHICH I BELIEVE IS VITAL TO AN EXCELLENT STORY, ARTWISE. THE FACIAL EXPRESSIONS, WHICH ARE OFTEN A BIT EXAGGERATED IN A DITKO-DRAWN STRIP, WERE PERFECT, AND VERY GRAPHIC. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE ARTWORK IN THE MAG, THOUGH, WAS THE COVER. ALTHOUGH I CAN'T QUITE PINPOINT ITS GREATNESS, I THINK IT WAS IN THE COLORS (THANKS AGAIN TO FRANK MC LAUGHLIN.) THEY WERE KIND OF ..RICH, OR SOMETHING. OH WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THE COVER WAS GREAT, WHICH IS A PROBLEM CHARLTON HAS HAD IN THE PAST (GETTING GREAT COVERS, THAT IS.)

AS FOR THE STORY ITSELF, IT WAS ONLY ADEQUATE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS WELL-WRITTEN. THE PLOT WAS STRICTLY RUN-OF-THE-MILL. I PROTEST THE USAGE OF GIANT INSECTS. THESE ARE FINE FOR STRANGE SUSPENSE STORIES (NO. 1 OF THIS MAG WAS FAIRLY GOOD, BY THE WAY) BUT THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THEM IN THIS STORY. AN ALIEN COLONIZATION WOULD HAVE SUFFICED, OR SOMETHING OF THAT SORT. I HOPE YOU ARE NOT GOING TO START PORTRAYING MONSTERS ON COVERS FOR SENSATIONALISM. A CERTAIN COMPANY (I KNOW YOU CAN'T MENTION THEM IN A BAD LIGHT) PRESENTLY IS EMPLOYING THIS POLICY, BUT NOT WITH MONSTERS. SURE, IT SELLS COMICS TO THE YOUNG KIDS, BUT FANDOM ON THE WHOLE SCORNS THIS PRACTICE. THEREFORE, A GOOD DEAL OF COLLECTORS NOW RATE YOU ABOVE THIS CERTAIN COMPANY. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I HAVE RECENTLY WRITTEN ABOUT THIS NO. 2 QUESTION FOR A FANZINE, WITH YOU AS THE AXIS. I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION YOU ARE NO. 2. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THE ARTICLE WILL BE PUBLISHED, BUT IF IT IS, I HOPE ALL ANTI-CHARLTONITES READ IT.

BEFORE I CLOSE, LET ME COMMENT BRIEFLY ON NIGHTSHADE. SHE'S BECOMING INTERESTING BECAUSE OF THE AURA OF MYSTERY SURROUNDING HER, AS THERE FORMERLY WAS IN BLUE BEETLE. I FELT DISAPPOINTED WHEN YOU SOLVED THE BB MYSTERY SO SOON, BUT, TO GET BACK TO THE DARLING OF DARKNESS, YOU GENERATED QUITE A BIT OF INTEREST IN CA NO. 88 AND I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR THE SHOWDOWN WITH INCUBUS. I HAVE AN IDEA FOR THIS STORY, AND I HOPE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN STORY IDEAS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. IT SEEMS I KEEP GETTING SIDETRACKED, SO I'LL CLOSE.

CONSIDER CAPTAIN ATOM NO. 88 A STEPPING STONE.

LARS ERICKSON
6060 UPLAND TERR. SO.
SEATTLE, WASH. 98118

DON'T KNOCK SELLING COMICS TO YOUNG KIDS. FANDOM CANNOT SUPPORT THIS OR ANY OTHER COMIC BY ITSELF. THE COPY SALES REQUIRED TO KEEP A COMIC TITLE IN PUBLICATION IS SO HIGH THAT WE MUST ADDRESS OURSELVES IN PART, AT LEAST, TO THESE SO-CALLED 'YOUNG KIDS.' THEY STILL ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE COMIC MARKET NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN LEAD TO BELIEVE.

I'M AFRAID THE NIGHTSHADE SCRIPTS IN THIS SERIES HAVE BEEN WRITTEN MONTHS AGO...WHAT WILL BE, WILL BE!

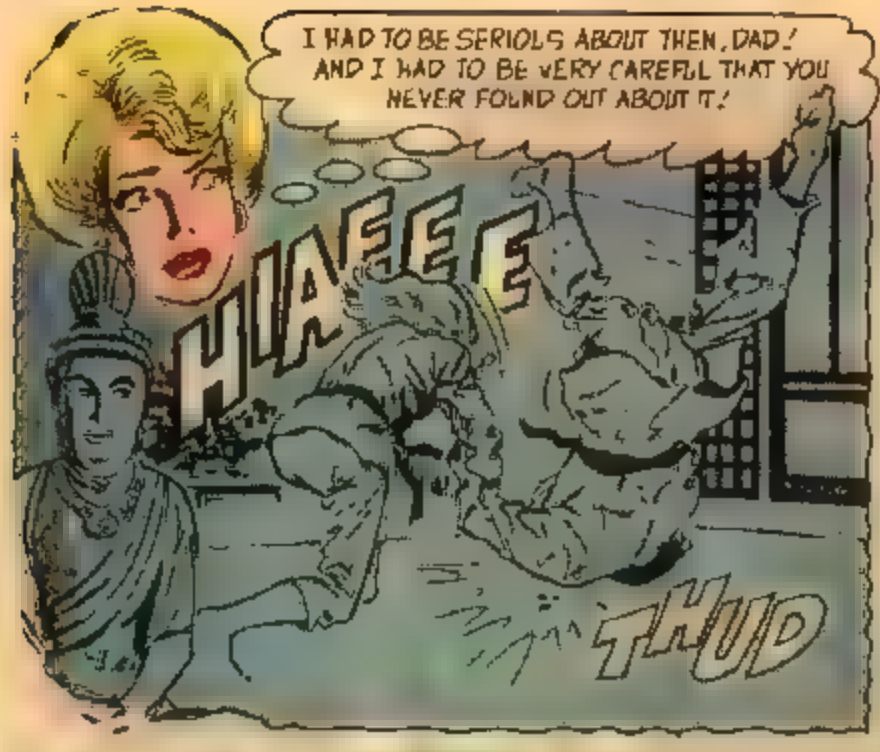
NIGHTSHADE

THE DARLING OF DARKNESS

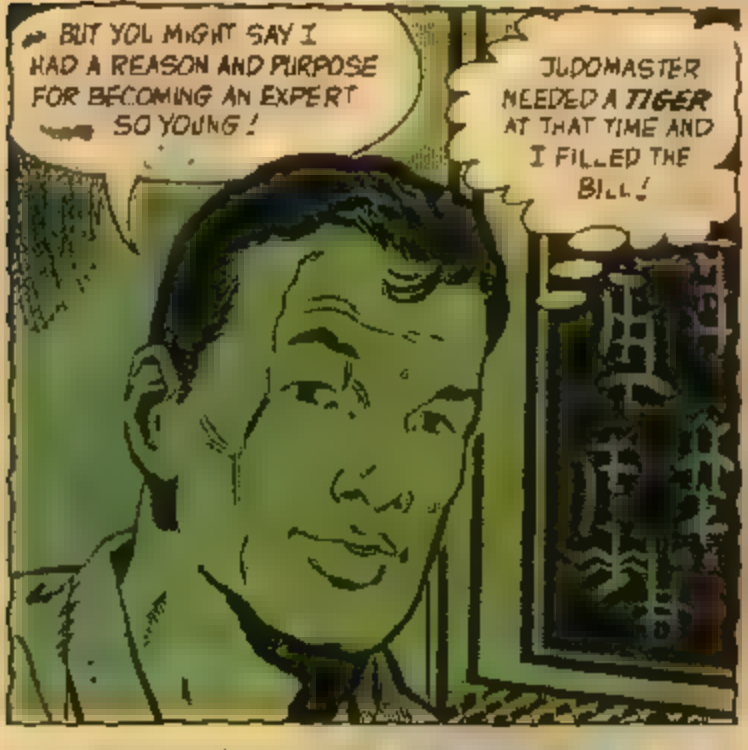
THE JET SET IS ALL SET FOR THE PARTY OF THE YEAR! AND EVE EDEN WILL NATURALLY BE THERE TO MAKE THE EVENT MERRIER! SO WHEN AN OLD FOE [redacted] TO DAZZLE THE FUN-LOVING CROWD, EVE QUICKLY VANISHES AND NIGHTSHADE APPEARS TO SAVE THE
MASQUE OF MIRRORS
CREATED AND WRITTEN BY
DAVID A. KALER
ART BY
JIM APARO '67
B-818

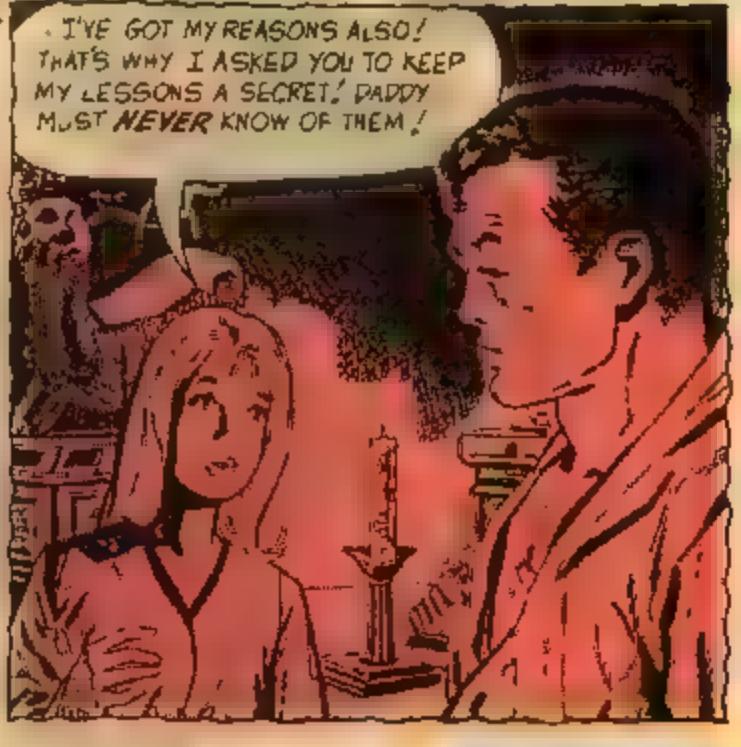
EVE! WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT? IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
JUST A THOUSAND OR MORE DOLLARS OF OSTRICH FEATHERS, DAD! THEY GO WELL WITH THE FEATHERY MASK I'M WEARING!

I'VE HAD A CATLIKE MASK MADE UP FOR YOU, PUSSY CAT! HOPE YOU LIKE IT!
JUST LIKE YOU TO PLAY THE OSTRICH AND HIDE YOUR HEAD IN THE GAIETY OF THE WORLD! YOU'RE SO DIFFERENT FROM THE SERIOUS GIRL I RAISED IN JAPAN!

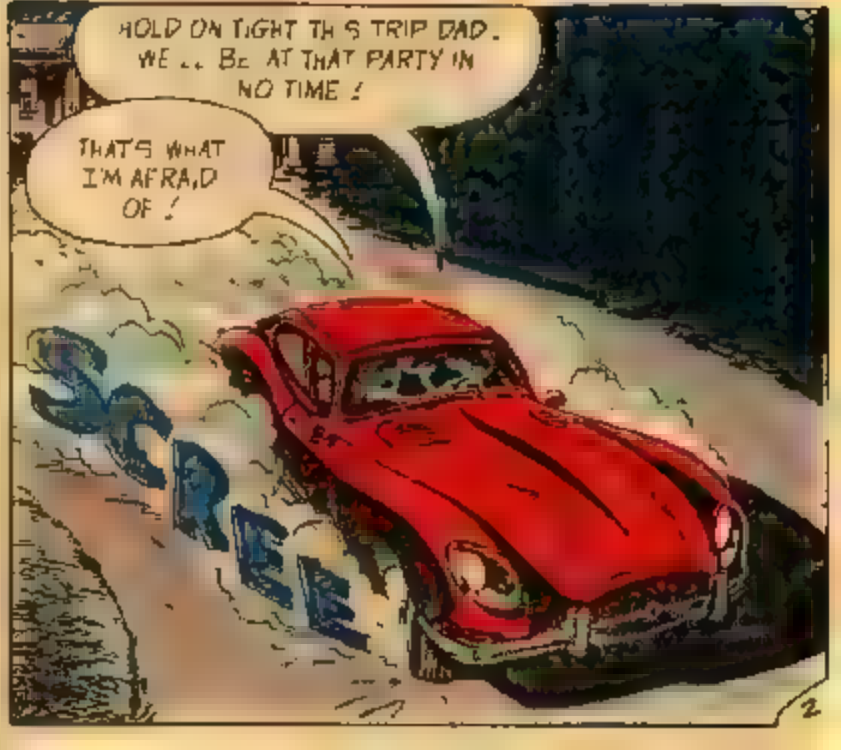

I HAD TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT THEN, DAD! AND I HAD TO BE VERY CAREFUL THAT YOU NEVER FOUND OUT ABOUT IT!
HIAEEE
THUD

FOR A FOURTEEN YEAR OLD, YOU'VE BEEN LEARNING TOO FAST!
BUT YOU SAID THAT YOU WERE AN EXPERT AT THE AGE OF 13! THAT WAS RATHER YOUNG TOO!


BUT YOU MIGHT SAY I HAD A REASON AND PURPOSE FOR BECOMING AN EXPERT SO YOUNG!
JUDOMASTER NEEDED A TIGER AT THAT TIME AND I FILLED THE BILL!


I'VE GOT MY REASONS ALSO! THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU TO KEEP MY LESSONS A SECRET! DADDY MUST NEVER KNOW OF THEM!

I HAD TO REMEMBER MY PROMISE TO MOTHER! I NEEDED TO KNOW ALL SYSTEMS OF FIGHTING IN ORDER TO DO THAT!


HOLD ON TIGHT THIS TRIP DAD. WE'LL BE AT THAT PARTY IN NO TIME!
THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF!
SCREE

AND THEY WERE!
GLAD YOU CAME, DAD? THIS IS THE BIGGEST BASH OF THE YEAR!
IT'S FUN, EVE! BUT HOW COME YOUR AIR FORCE CAPTAIN DIDN'T BRING YOU?
GOVERNMENT ORDERS, DAD!
AND AN ASSIGNMENT THAT I COULDN'T HANDLE!
THE PARTY SWINGS FOR HOURS UNTIL...
OH EXCUSE ME!
THAT NECKLACE!! I'VE SEEN THOSE GEMS BEFORE!
IT'S NOT HERE! I MUST HAVE LEFT IT IN THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT!
AND I'LL SIT THIS ONE OUT WHILE YOU FETCH WHAT YOU NEED!
RACING TO HER CAR, EVE GETS INTO IT AND PRESSES A SECRET BUTTON UNDER THE DASH BOARD!
UNDER THE BLACK CLOUD THE CIA DEVELOPED FOR ME, I'LL GET INTO MY FIGHTING GARB!
CLICK
SSSSS
MINUTES LATER..
THAT LADY OF GEMS HAD BETTER WATCH OUT THIS TIME! NIGHTSHADE AND THIS SKATE BOARD WILL SHOW HER SOME NEW TRICKS!
3

ALL THROUGHOUT THE HALL, MEN AND WOMEN STAND HYPNOTIZED! JEWELEE HAS STRUCK AGAIN!
GATHER UP THE LOOT, MEN! DIAMONDS AND MORE DIAMONDS TO MAKE ME THE QUEEN OF GEMS!
WHERE YOU'RE GOING AFTER TONIGHT, THE ONLY STYLE CALLS FOR STRIPES!
THE PARTY'S OVER, BIG BOY! BUT YOU CAN HAVE ANOTHER BASH OF YOUR OWN!
CRA-H
GET HER! BRIGHTEN UP HER FUTURE WITH A NICE SHINY BULLET!
ANYTHING YOU SAY, JEWELEE!
YOU ASKED FOR THIS!
SINCE THIS IS A NIGHT GAME, I MIGHT AS WELL PITCH YOU BOYS A DOUBLE HEADER!
THINGS CERTAINLY LOOK BLACK FOR BOTH OF YOU!
CRACK
OOOF
4

DIAMONDS ARE THIS GIRL'S BEST FRIEND, NIGHTSHADE! BUT THIS RUBY SHOULD STOP YOU INTERFERRING!
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY THROWING ONE PARTY INTO ANOTHER!
WHAT'S UP? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SINCE YOU WANTED THE SPOTLIGHT, I THOUGHT I'D MAKE YOU SEE RED FOR NOW!
GET HER, MEN! GET HER!!
THIS CALLS FOR NIGHTSHADE'S FAMOUS BRAND OF BLACK MAGIC!
MY BLACK LIGHT BEAM SHOULD NULLIFY THE BEAMS FROM THAT RUBY!
AND THE OLD DISAPPEARING ACT MAKE A BIG HIT WITH THEM!
WHAM!
AGH

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

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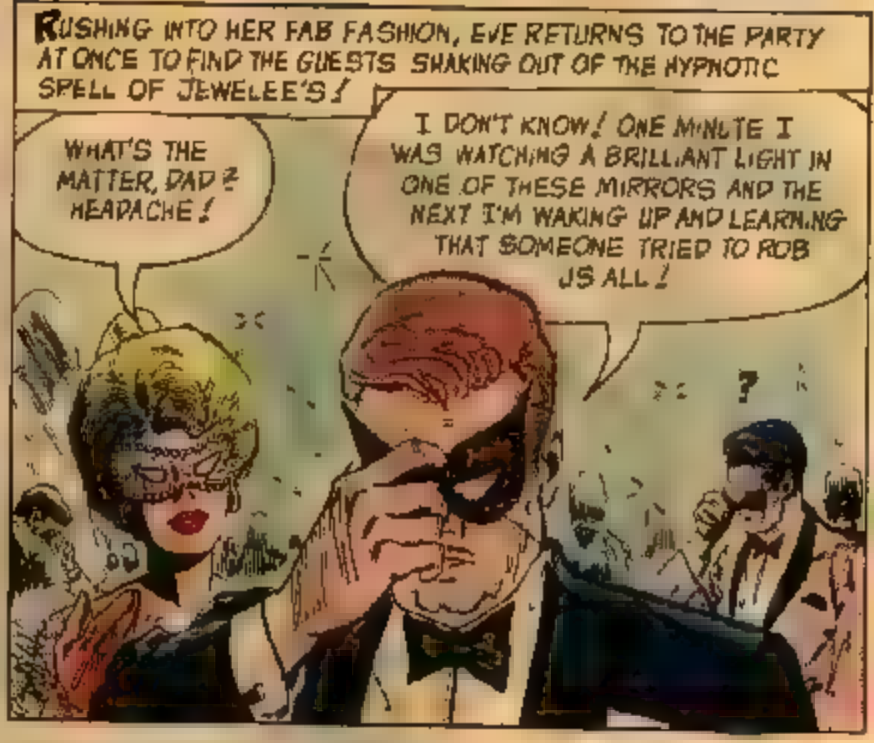
LET ME GO!
THIS IS ONE WAY TO STRING YOU ALONG, JEWELEE!
MEN! HELP!!
COME AND GET IT, BOYS!
GAS! SHE'S GASSING US!
KUUUFF
YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME!
KOUFF
AND THIS SHOULD SETTLE YOUR LITTLE BAG OF TRICK GEMS!
LOOK WHO'S HERE! A LOVELY SET OF MATCHED MEN IN BLUE TO FIT YOUR DISPOSITION!
KUUFF
M-MY ARM!..
AGH!

I'D BETTER TAKE THESE LITTLE RAZZLER DAZZLERS AWAY FROM YOU! THEY'VE CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE!

THE CHIEF WILL BE GLAD TO GET THESE TO KEEP UNDER LOCK AND KEY! I HOPE I GOT ALL OF THEM THIS TIME!

GOT TO HURRY AND GET BACK UP HERE AS EVE BEFORE THESE PEOPLE COME OUT OF THAT TRANCE!


RUSHING INTO HER FAB FASHION, EVE RETURNS TO THE PARTY AT ONCE TO FIND THE GUESTS SHAKING OUT OF THE HYPNOTIC SPELL OF JEWELEE'S!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DAD? HEADACHE!
I DON'T KNOW! ONE MINUTE I WAS WATCHING A BRILLIANT LIGHT IN ONE OF THESE MIRRORS AND THE NEXT I'M WAKING UP AND LEARNING THAT SOMEONE TRIED TO ROB US ALL!

LOOKS LIKE YOUR NOT THE ONLY ONE TO GET DIZZY, DAD! LOTS OF OTHERS FEEL THAT WAY ALSO!
YOU'RE RIGHT!

WELL THAT'S ONE LESS FOE TO FACE ME IN THIS WORLD! I WONDER WHAT CAPTAIN ATOM'S DOING TONIGHT?
THE END

ACTION-HEROES?
WE GOT 'EM!!!
THUNDERBOLT
THE PEACEMAKER
the BLUE BEETLE
5 OF 'EM
TO BE EXACT...
AND THEY'RE
NOT
HALF BAD!
JUDO MASTER
CAPTAIN ATOM

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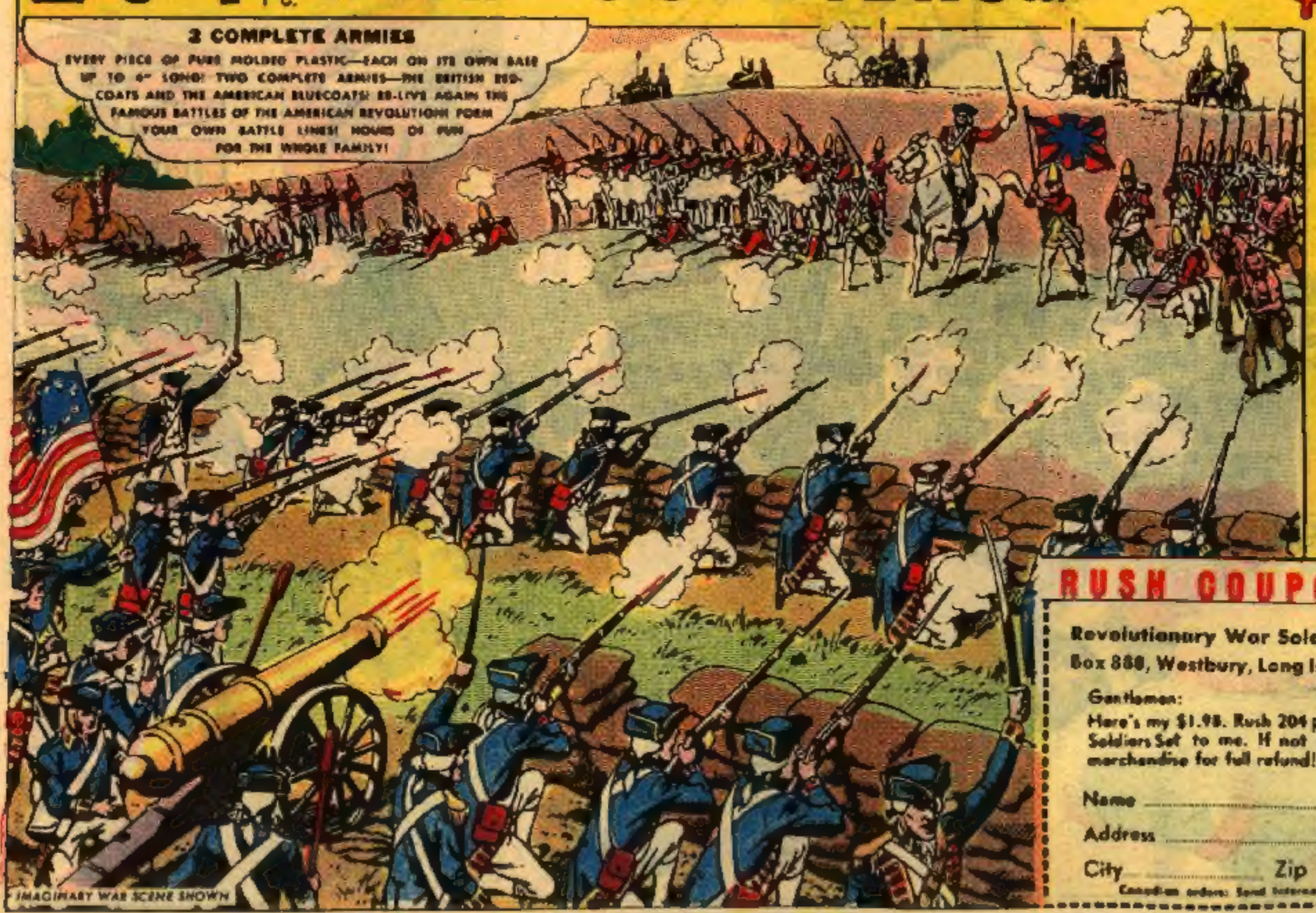

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